

Ep. Hoyt
Deerfield
Mass.

Sketch-Book No. 3
From February 1st 1836
To May 16th 1836

First Draughts without corrections.

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Article 1 Seminole War in Florida

Two companies of United States troops cut off by the Indians, consisting of 112 men.

This intelligence is from a Mobile paper of the 12th of January, inserted in the Boston Press, January 29th

Major Dade had started with his troops from Tampa Bay to Camp King to join Genl. Clinch, when, on the morning of the 28th of December, at 8 oclock they were surrounded by a large body of Indians, supposed to the number of 800 to 1000, and were cut to pieces, only 3 men escaped badly wounded to recount the lamentable history of the butchery.

Maj. Dade was shot off from his horse in the commencement of the attack.

Capt. Gardiner and Fraser soon after fell mortally wounded. Leuts. Bassinger, Henderson, Mudge and Kean¹ and Dr. Gatlin surgeon of the detachment, were slain.

Col. Twiggs of the US Army chartered the Steam Boat Merchant

¹ Hoyt means Lt. Keais, not Kean.

and started with 4 companies
from New Orleans to Tampa Bay
Major Belton is now there with
the force under his command.

Tampa Bay is laid down on the
maps on the west coast of Florida

It is said Genl. Scott is ordered to
Florida to take the command of the
troops, and that parties of the Indi
ans are near St. Augustine, at which
place they have destroyed the Light
house.

The particulars of the attack on
Major Dade, are wanted. We would
hope that regular troops did not
suffer themselves to be ambuscaded.

These Indians seem to be very active,
and if numerous, it may require a con
siderable force to drive them from their
extensive and uncultivated woods.

Infantry & Riflemen with some light
artillery, will be found necessary for
the service. Volunteer corps may
assist in the war; but they cannot
remain long in the field without dis
tressing their families at home.

See page }
113 &
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2. The Legislature. By their proceedings it appears that petitions are flowing in for granting corporation for a variety of purposes, and among them for new banks and increase of Capital And also for State aid in the construction of the Rail Road from Worcester to the west line of the State.

The growing opposition to Banks, instead of checking them, seems to have increased the desire of obtaining them. Their number I think already too great and it is my sincere hope that no more will be granted in the State. If ever a people were bank mad we certainly are that people. Is it not time for the patriots of our country to awake and turn us from our mercantile mania?

A grant for the Rail way I should deem more reasonable than corporation for banks; though I think it is unfortunate that the route selected is so far from the center of the State that it can accommodate but a small part of the people.

3. A Subaltern in America; comprising his narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army, at Baltimore, Washington &c &c during the late war. 1 Vol. 12 Mo pp. 266. Philadelphia 1833.

The author of this work was a Lieutenant of Light Infantry during the expeditions against Washington Baltimore and New Orleans in 1814 & 1815. in which it seems he had a full share of hard and arduous service: and he appears to be well qualified for detailing military operations.

Gen. Ross
Force
in the
expedition
to Washington

In the expedition to Washington under the command of Genl. Ross, this army consisted of 30 Brigades of nearly 4000 men The light Brigade forming the advance was composed of the 85th regiment, the light companies of the 4th, 21st, and 44th; one company of marines and 100 armed negroes-might number about 1200 bayonets and was commanded by Col. Thornton. The 2d Brigade again at the head of which was Col. Brooks composed the 4th and 44th regiment; whilst the 3d, led on by Col. Paterson

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Order of March

was made up of the 21st regiment and a battalion of marines. The park of artillery, again, amounted to no more than 3 pieces, one six and two three pounders; and it was rendered doubly inefficient from the total want of horses. The guns, with their tumbrils and ammunition, waggon, were dragged by seamen, the gunners & drivers followed on foot, and the progress which they made was as tardy as the deep and sandy nature of the roads authorized us to expect.

The order of advance is then described. "The advanced guard under Major Brown led the way. It consisted of 3 companies of light infantry; two of which moved in column along the road, whilst the 3d extended in files both in front and on the flanks. After this body, at a certain interval, came the light brigade, which also furnished a company or two to scour the woods. Upon the heels of the light, followed the 2d brigade; next came the artillery; and last of all

Van guard

the 3d brigade, which furnished the rear guards.” (In the whole about 4,000)

The company to which the subaltern was attached consisted of a Captain 2 subalterns, 3 Sergeants and 50 rank a file; and when it was employed in advances was then distributed.

Along the high road moved first of all 2 files of men and a Sergeant one file about 20 paces ahead of the other. Parallel with the most forward file, 20 men spread themselves, by pairs, or files, each pair or file keeping about 10 paces apart from the others, on each side of the way; by which means the woods or fields were swept on both flanks to the extent of 200 paces. In the rear of the last of the two files, but [] 20 paces behind, moved the remainder of the company. About 20 paces behind that small section, the two remaining companies (of the advance) coming on in compact array, unless indeed some alarm chanced to be given, when they too, instantly extended

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Equipment of the Light Infantry.

extended through the fields.

The following description is given of the arms and accoutrements of the officers of the light infantry.

“In the first place then, I carried as is usual on such occasions, a perfect equipment of military accoutrements; that is to say, sabre, sash, belt, pistols and telescope. Strapped across my shoulders was a good cloak, which on many previous occasions had done the duty of a bed, and which I confidently anticipated would be called upon to discharge a similar duty in times that were yet before me.

On my right flank, that is to say, slung over my left shoulder, lay a black leathern haversack, containing a spare shirt, a pair of stockings, dressing utensils, a foraging cap, three pounds of boiled pork, and two pounds and a half of sea-biscuit. On my left breast again, rested a horn, filled with rum, whilst a wood keg, for the conveyance of water, hung over my neck, on the very middle
of

Bivouac

of my back” All were equally loaded.
 The army carried no tents, and
 at night took up its Bivouac; the
 arms piled in open order of columns
 In the rear of the muskets, fires
 were built for cooking and to warm
 the men who surrounded them.
 The troops were assembled near their
 arms and sat down by companies
 and sections on the ground beside them.
 Their great coats were all put on &
 their accoutrements buckled over
 them; the knapsacks likewise packed
 and strapped up, were so arranged
 as that each might be slung across
 its owner’s shoulders at a moments
 warning; or, should no alarm oc
 cur, supply him with a comfort
 able pillow for the night: Arrange
 ments not dissimilar were also gone
 into by the officers.
 During the nights, picquets were ad
 vanced, and farm houses occupied
 by them, where found convenient, and
 a chain of sentinels surrounded the
 camp, forty or fifty yards apart;

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Bugle Signals

and sometimes double, especially on the great roads, that one might patrol in front, whilst the other remained stationing. The movements of the army were regulated generally by bugle signals which were well understood by both officers and men; and no other instruments of music were used. On discovering an army by the advance, a signal was given by its bugler and immediately repeated by the corps in the rear, and throughout the Army. The signals were ~~as~~ so well understood in the British army that not only the discovery of an army is almost instantly communicated to the commander of the army, but something of their number, as well as of the nature of their force.

When it became necessary to halt, the commander in Chief ordered the signal for that purpose from his orderly bugle, which was repeated throughout the army and each corps held the ground it then occupied, and the advance sat down and rested in their position. Another signal renewed the march.

Military Remarks

On the discovery of an enemy of considerable force, the commander in chief advanced to examine the ground and direct the necessary movements.

In the order which has been described Genl. Ross advanced to Bladensburg with perfect safety, and there defeated the whole of our force, drawn up on advantage our ground; and this achievement was performed principally by his light brigade, without much aid from the others; a striking instance of the imbecility of an undisciplined body.

At Baltimore the Americans had collected a much larger force, and constructed strong lines and batteries, too formidable to attack with such an inferior force as that of the British. The attack on the American works at New Orleans evinced less prudence on the part of the British commander. And while it should teach officers that undisciplined men will fight behind works, it should also caution them against opposing in the open field a disciplined force of equal, or indeed,

Commendation of the Works

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of an inferior force, unless there is a great disparity in the numbers and obvious advantages of ground.

The work of the Subaltern is well worth the careful attention of officers & particularly of those who command light troops. With the addition of maps of the routes and plans of the order of march and of the encampments, it would have been more useful for military men. The work may be found in the social library in this town. Another work under the title of "Narrative of the Campaign of the British Army at Washington and New Orleans, an 8 vol. by "Subaltern" may be found in the same library.

4.

A small work entitled "Awful Disclosures" by Maria Monk, is for sale in Boston. This work if true must forever blast the reputation of convents & nunneries.

She says she was a nun in the Convent "Hotel Dieu", in Montreal, and on her taking the veil was required

Developments, Awful

to take three oaths, one of which bound her to obey the Priests in all things; and this she soon learnt, was to live in criminal intercourse with them. The superior, she says told her that infants were sometimes born in the Convents but they were always baptized and immediately strangled. She names several of the "Fathers" of the Convent whom she charges with the grossest crimes, and describes the manner in which one of the nuns, who refused to kill her child, was put to death viz by first gaging and then smothering her with feather beds; and adds that the corpses of children & nuns made way with, one thrown into the vaults, and consumed by vitriol and quick lime.

The charges against the Convent by Miss Mon, are of a high nature and would hardly gain credence on her bare testimony. But the developments which have recently been made by others, both in Europe and America; and the consideration
that

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Remarks

that where marriage is prohibited and mysterious sanctity claimed in an institution, the grossest corruption must exist, cannot but excite strong fears that the statements of Miss Monk may be true. The corruptions and depravity of the Jesuits, could not be believed by the people of Europe, until the most indubitable proof was exhibited, and ten years ago, who would have believed that Masonry murdered its numbers for revealing its secrets?

We have flattered ourselves that within the last half century, the condition of the greatest part of the world has been much improved—that the rights of men had been, in some degree, fixed on a firm basis, and that we were fast approaching to a more perfect state, in which injustice might be banished, and all be called to repose “under our vines and fig trees, with none to make us afraid.”²

² From Micah 4:4

Remarks

But we may, one long find, that we are far from this happy state, and that much is still wanting to render the world a happy residence for good men. Future generations may look back, even to our times, and shudder at the abuses which now exist, and even they, with further improvements, may be considered as very imperfect by the generations which may follow them. This supposes a progression of the conditions of men, as yet, however far from what it ought to be. And whether any extent of improvements will banish from the world, the evils under which it has so long suffered, is a question of doubtful solution.

In mathematics and many branches of natural philosophy we have arrived to a high elevation; but still these admit of improvements. Sixty years ago we had extensive treatises, by ingenious men, on Chemistry, and the scientific men of that day supposed that the branch of philoso-

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Fluctuation of Science

phy had approached its acme.
 The discoveries and improvements
 since made by Lavoisier and others have given
 us new and numerous works on
 this subject; and the old cumbersome
 treatises are now laid aside as
 almost useless.

This fact ought to check over boast
 ing & humble our pride, and teach
 us that we may be far from hav
 ing arrived at the summit of the
Himalaya. Let not these consider
 ations however retard us in the camp of im
 provement. If we cannot reach per
 fection we may add something to
 the general stock, and future generations,
 though they may detect our erros,
 may thank us for the fine improve
 ments we may have made.

5

At a full meeting of Antimason in
 the Representatives Hall Jany 29 1936
 Martin Van Buren was nominated
 for President of the U.S. and a long
 list of resolutions were past in sup
 port of the nomination. They are

Antimasonic Nomination

based upon the ground that the candidate is an antimason, and that Mr. Webster will not be supported by other States. The opposing candidate it is supposed, will be Judge White who being and advocate for slavery they cannot support. The nomination of Van Buren is said to have been nearly unanimous. As the Electors of Massachusetts will be chosen by general ticket, this nomination will have no effect and therefore perhaps might have been omitted. It may produce a division among us.

6

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The weather, Feby 4th, still continues extremely cold and dry and the snow deep. Water in our wells scarcely sufficient for family use, and none has been drawn from my well for cattle since the winter commenced, excepting a day or two. Thus far, the winter has been much like those 60 or more years ago. Shall we say, we have periods of cold winters followed by those that are warm?

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7

New Work

The Scenery of the Heavens displayed, with view of illustrating the Doctrine of a Plurality of worlds, is announced by Thomas Dick in the preface of his Book on the Improvement of Society by the diffusion of knowledge. The work will form a volume of considerable size and will be illustrated with a great number of engravings, many of which will be original. The work announced April 18 1833. I have not heard that is yet printed. Coming from the pen of Dr. Dick, the proposed work must be highly interesting as well as instructing—I wait impatiently to peruse it.

A handsome edition of Dicks works has been published in this country in 4 Vol. 12 mo; the survey of the Heavens not included. The 4 vols embrace his Christian Philosopher- Philosophy of Religion- Philosophy of a Future State and Improvement of Society; and all the subjects are treated with great ingenuity and in a manner adapted to common readers.

8

The Weather

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Monday February 8th, a snow storm of fine flakes, to add to the mass now on the ground. Continued to middle of the afternoon and snow fell about 18 inches. Looking out of our windows we see, in many places, only the upper part of the fences, especially where the snow has drifted. In my front door yard the snow is drifted up nearly to the middle of the upper sashes of the windows, and the air extremely cold. The thermometer in the morning is frequently down to 15 to 18 minus, and during the day the sun has no effect even on the south side of buildings.

The winter of 1779-1780, has been noted as uncommonly cold and the snow deep; but it is believed that, this of 1835-1836, will be found as severe. Indeed the thermometer is much lower than any I have found noted for the former winter. Last winter for a short time the mercury was lower, even down to 30 minus. The present winter however, is more uniformly cold.

Imperfection of graduated Instruments

The construction of instruments for astronomical and geodesic operations is perhaps, one of the most difficult of the mechanic arts. In England and in France great attention has been paid to this business and scientific men have lent their aid in perfecting it, by which a considerable degree of perfection has been attained: Still instruments are far from the desired accuracy, and perhaps human art can never arrive to it.

An angle determined by reading off from one limb, seldom agrees exactly with another read from another part. This imperfection may arise from various sources: as a want of exact graduation, the expansion and contraction of the metals of which they are composed, errors in centering imperfect adjustment of the parts & when the instrument is good, to the want of exactness in fixing it to the horizon or vertical plane of any place; all of which are

Instruments of Surveyors & navigators
important to insure the requisite accuracy
in nice operations.

The best instruments are now so constructed that angles are read off by indices, conveying verniers, on various parts of the limb, on the principle of repetition, and a man of the whole taken for the angle. For a full investigation of this subject, see Chap. 2 of Sir John F.W. Herschel's treatise on astronomy.

Instruments used in land surveying, navigation, and in some parts of engineering may answer valuable purposes, though constructed with less nicety; for here nothing but approximations are expected. These instruments however, ought to be made with great care, so that there may be no other than errors from the inaccuracy of the observations. At sea with a well made octant, or sextant, the Lat. may be determined with the requisite accuracy; and by their application to the lunar method, the Longitude is ascertained to a degree of precision

Theodolites & magnetic Instruments

answering to all the purposes in determining the ship's place; and in this process half a degree is considered but a small error.

In land surveying a well made Theodolite with a telescope and verniers is the best instrument, especially in open ground and for determining the areas of multangular []; but in the woods, where objects at the angles cannot be seen, unless the bush is cleared away, they cannot be used advantageously. Hence recourse is had to instruments carrying a magnetic needle, which if good, will answer for the requisite approximations. But instruments of this kind are liable to considerable errors in the hands of unskillful practioners. often they are effected by ferriginous minerals in the rocks on earth: and from recent discoveries that have been made, it appears that many substances, other than ferruginous operate upon the magnetic needle & produce errors. Another and great source

Perturbation of the needle

source of error in the needle is the accumulation of electricity upon the glass cover of the instrument. This I have nowhere seen mentioned in treatises on surveying; and when first noticed, it was new to me; and in surveying I have always guarded against it.

I was led to the discovery from the hints of an old surveyor, published in the Independent Chronicle at Boston, a number of years ago. The following is an extract from the “hints”

“The surveyor’s compass, as it is called, is the instrument commonly used in surveying lands in this state. Sometimes its needle will not traverse in any degree; at other times, though it retain a degree of motion for sometime after it has been agitated, yet when it acquires a state of rest, it doth not point to the poles: Hence Surveyors have concluded the compass bad, or that they are in the vicinity of some mineral body, which, if the mass be considerable, will always control the needle. But the compass may be

Supposed explanation

good and free from any mineral check, and notwithstanding be rendered useless for a time.” This is said by the “Old Surveyor” to take place in the winter season; and the following is his explanation of the cause.

“If the rays of the sun, in its most southern course, be allowed to reach the glass which covers the needle, they strike the northern edge of it free from the intervention of any body, and soon give it a considerable degree of heat. The adjacent margin of the box, in which the needle plays, being considerably raised above the glass, reflects the rays, and thereby increases the degree of heat; which the margin on the other side shades a part of the glass, especially when the face of the compass reclines from the sun, and obstructs the rays.”

“In such situations, the needle will adhere to the part possessing the highest degree of heat, which will contract and entirely control the power of the magnet.”

“When this is found to be the case

True Course

nothing more is necessary, than rubbing over the glass a little snow or dampness, or placing the compass under your arm, with the glass next to your shirt, for a few minutes; either of which, will restore to all parts of the glass and equal degree of heat. This difficulty may always be avoided by keeping the compass shaded.”

The explanation given by the old surveyor, is wholly unsatisfactory, and the unequal heat in the different parts of the glass can have no effect on the needle. Had he been acquainted with the laws of electricity, he would have assigned a different cause for this disturbance of his needle. The method he points out will no doubt restore the needle to its magnetic action, but not by restoring the equilibrium of heat but that of the electricity accumulated upon the glass, from the friction of the hands in managing the instrument.

The following experiment will explain the cause of the difficulty to which the compass is subject.

Ex. Let the needle settle in the direction
of

Experimental Elucidation

of the magnetic meridian, then fix it fast, and with the ball of the thumb rub the glass several times in one direction over one end of the needle; this done the end of the needle under the glass where the friction is applied will immediately adhere to the glass, and by an easy motion of the compass it may be turned round the circle to its first position, the needle remaining stationary on the glass where it first adhered. While the needle is in any position out of the magnetic meridian, force the air from the mouth upon the glass and it will instantly let go its hold & after the usual vibration, settle in its meridian.

In this experiment the glass should be clean & dry, as well as the hand used in the friction; and when the glass is close to the needle, the experiment will be more satisfactory.

The errors arising from this source, should be well understood by those who make magnetic surveys in cold dry weather

Geodesic operation in this State

especially in the winter; and it is a necessary precaution to keep the glass moist if possible which may be done by frequent blasts from the mouth, or moisting it with a small quantity of snow.

The Geodesic operations now in process in this State, under Mr Borden for constructing an accurate map of the Commonwealth, it is hoped will introduce amore accurate mode of Level surveying than has heretofore been practiced. The base that has been so carefully and scientifically measured from the southerly part of Deerfield, through Whately to Hatfield, should be carefully prescribed, and the Lat. & Long. of it s termini accurately fixed by the nicest astronomical observation as well as its true angle with the meridian; and a record made there of in the Books of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Thus a standard of measure, and an easy process by which to compare compasses & determine the variation of needles, would be provided.

Mode of measuring the Base

According to a Report of Mr Borden, made to Gov. Davis January 1835, the length of the Base was found to be 7 miles, 684,954 yards, deduced from two admeasurements, in which the difference was only $\frac{23}{100}$ of an inch—a coincidence very remarkable.

The apparatus used in this admeasurement, was composed of 2 rods of metal of different expansibility (brass or iron) placed in a cylinder of tin, and covered with painted paste board papers to obstruct the rays of the sun. An arm was attached to the ends of the rods, and so continued as to preserve a point in a constant position, notwithstanding the expansion of the rods. Microscopic wire placed at the two extremities, and the marks on the arm, brought to exact coincidence at each removal; and where there was an elevation or depression of the ground, the base was deduced by trigonometrical processes. The removal of the apparatus was laborious but the results very accurate. In the trigonometrical Survey of

Base of Gen. Ray & Col. Mudge

England by Gen. Ray Col. Mudge & others, the base was measured with hollow glass tubes, and stut chains jointed like watch chains, supported on troughs laid horizontally, and allowance made for different degrees of heat. The base measured by the glass tubes was found=27404, 08 feet= about 5,19 miles. By a subsequent measurement, with the steel chain the result was found not to differ more than $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. See Huttun's Mathematics Vol. 2 p. 67. N York Edition. If the accounts of the measurement of our base be accurate, it seems we have equaled it not exceeded the English in their mensuration. But it is probable their instruments used for the triangulation, were superior to those used by our engineers.

Our Engineer, Mr. Borden is an ingenious mechanic as well as a man of science and he constructs some of his instruments, several which I have examined, and their workmanship is ~~was~~ not inferior to the English.

10

Seminole War

By the latest accounts it seems the Indians continue their depredations in Florida, and attack all detachments of our troops, and generally with success. It is said 3500 militia are detached in Georgia, and put in march for the scene of contest. It is also stated that the Creeks have done some mischief on the frontiers of Georgia and Florida, and that they will probably join the Seminoles in the war. Should this take place, as they are numerous, the contest may be attended with much disaster on the Frontiers. The detached militia will afford but a feeble body in the field, and if they can be made to sustain an action with the Indians, they cannot be kept long in the service, without distressing their families at home. Were not Congress blind to their duty, they would immediately, so modify the Militia of the US as to prepare a select force to be encamped and disciplined in the field annually, and kept ready for service on the shortest notice.

11

Philosophical

In his Life of John Paul Jones
 Mr. Sherburne makes the following
 remarks upon philosophers and naval commanders
 “Every being acts agreeably to the
 constitution of its nature; and it
 would be just as absurd to look
 for a contemplative philosopher
 in the bustle of business or a daring
 naval commander in the ordi
 nary pursuits of civil life, as
 to seek for a gently swirling
 stream in the crater of a volca
 no.”

As it relates to a naval Commander
 I think the remark strictly just. The
 habits of men in the ordinary pursuits
 of civil life, are so different from those
 of seamen, that they cannot be brought
 to relish the scenes and dangers of
 the Ocean; and as respects the philos
 opher the remark is no doubt equal
 ly correct. His retired habits can
 not be charmed with the bustle
 attendant on a life of business, in
 which there is no time for calm
 reflection. His life is not an idle

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Retirement , and-

one; his mind is even on the stretch
 nor in his dreams does he wholly forget
 the subjects which employ him in
 his wakeful hours. But his [] is
 his favorite place; and though he
 may appear lonely, he is surrounded
 by objects which always afford him
 the highest satisfaction and delight.

Such however are not often calculated
 to make a show in the busy world
 They in many instances remain almost
 unknown; but to them this is not
 a matter of regret. They have no de
 sire for the tinsel of office, nor the
 adulation of the unthinking world.
 A competency to answer the demands
 of economical support is all they ask
 of this worlds goods; and thus circum
 stanced, they repose in calm reflection
 on the pages of the book of nature,
 well aware (to adopt the language
 of an ingenious naturalist) that the
 human mind, unenlightened by
 science, or by considerable reflec
 tion, is a soil rich in weeds of
superstition and credulity. That

Importance of Science

it is ever prone to believe in the wonderful, even when this belief as is often the case, brings with it fears and cares and misery. That the bondage of the mind in superstitious credulity is great and heavy, which neither religion nor virtue can give it its freedom; And that this it obtains from science. How important than even in this point of view, is the enlargement of the mind by science”

12

Rail Roads

A Convention of about 150 gentle men from several states, has recently been held at Windsor Vermont, to consult on the expediency of constructing a rail road through the valley of the Connecticut, from Canada to Hartford; and committees were appointed to procure the necessary acts of incorporation, in the states where they do not already exist, and for other purposes

Rail Road

In Massachusetts, by a foolish law now existing, and expansive survey must be made and plans ~~and~~ profiles & estimated completed, before an act of incorporation can be granted or even before a petition can be reviewed by the Legislature. This act, which should be entitled an act to discourage internal improvements, ought to be immediately repealed & in the House at the last session, a bill passed for that purpose, but not with a veto in the Senate. A company may now survey a proposed route, prepare plans and profiles and estimates, at an expense thousands of dollars, and then be told by the Legislature that they may withdraw their petition. A common magnetic Survey in which the prominent points such as hills, plains, rivers, villages, and some detached buildings, are delineated, with distances are all the particulars that one wanted to enable the Legislature to determine the utility, or necessity, of the way asked for. That

Rail Road

That a Rail way through the valley of the Connecticut would command much travel cannot be a doubt. but whether it might facilitate the transportation of heavy merchandise and the produce of the Country, is not so clear. Lumber it is believed, would find its way to Hartford by the River, should the railway be constructed, as well as heavy [] from and to the northerly part of Massachusetts. Above this state the river becomes shallow & falls & rapids are so numerous, that the rail way might be the most eligible mode of transportation to some point on the River in the County of Franklin, say near the mouth of Deerfield River, or at Northfield, from both of which points good boatable water is found to Hartford. But if the passenger travel shall be sufficient to justify the construction of a rail way the whole distance nothing would be more gratifying that to see it completed and

Rail Road

in successful operation. The only difficulty is to procure the money to defray the expenses of construction. Will the people of the valley furnish it? We fear not; and in such a case we must have recourse to our rich Cities. Hartford and New York might be induced to lend their aid; but not a dollar could be obtained in Boston nor in any town for east of Connecticut River.

From the cost of the Rail ways already constructed in New England, and the estimates of an Engineer Col. Long, for similar roads in Maine, we may approximate the probable expense for the contemplated route in the valley of the Connecticut. On all the routes the Col. examined, and where timber and stone are abundant, he estimates the expense of the lowest, at 21, 613 Dollars [] exclusive of the right of way.

Putting then the cost 20,000 Dollars per mile, on the proposed route, and the distance from Hartford to the north line of Vermont at 235 miles, we have 4,700,000 Dollars, to which

Rail Roads

which add 282.00 dollars, for the right of way, admitting the road to be 3 rods wide, and we have a total of 4,728,000 dollars; ~~[—] total expense~~ a sum probably too low. Is this sum to be procured in the Connecticut Valley by subscription to the stock? The supposition would be preposterous.

Suppose the towns through which the road must pass were to construct it, in their several towns, Deerfield, which has an extent of at least eight miles would have to pay the moderate sum of 160,000 Dollars Does any one believe that the present inhabitants would be compensated by all the facilities it would afford them, or future generations?

But it will probably be held, by some, that the road may be constructed for less than 20,000 dollars per mile. Let us then suppose 16,000 dollars sufficient; Deerfield then would have a tax of

Rail-Roads

128,000 dollars & a sum far beyond the ability of the town.

From this view of the premises, it follows, that an extensive rail road cannot be constructed in the interior of our Country, without the aid of government; and before this can be obtained, a route must be selected which shall be beneficial to a majority of the people. Between large commercial places, as Boston and Worcester, and perhaps Worcester and Springfield, companies may be formed, who will invest their property in such a road; but the multiplication of them to any great extent is idle.

The grant of a railway from Boston to the west line of our State, by the route of Springfield is obviously wrong location Had the grant been for a road from Worcester, through the middle of the State, to our west line, it would have accommodated a majority of the people; and when such a way was completed, short branches might
be

The Weather

be constructed, connecting with it.
to accommodate the whole. Any
projects beyond this are evidently vis
ionary. Note The estimates we have made,
suppose a double track.

13

Wednesday February 17th a snow
commenced, which promises a consider
able addition to the great mass on
the grounds; the air cold and dry.
By an account kept by Rufus Sax
ton Esqr. it appears that the quantity
fallen this winter, up to the 14 instant,
is 81 inches. At no time since 1779-
80, have I noticed a greater quantity
on this ground, nor a colder season.
We are literally covered up, and
the wood at our doors, is obtained
only be deep digging at the same
time we have hardly water suffice
ent in our well for family use, and
little business is performed, other than
attending the cattle and horses in the
barn, and yard. In short, the win
ter is dreary and uncomfortable,
and little inferior, in this respect, to
the winters of Capt Ross in his late Voyage.

14

Florida or Seminole War.

By the latest accounts the war continues with various success on the part of the Indians. Genl. Scott, it is said, is calling on the adjacent states for detachments of militia; 5000 of which it is supposed will be necessary in addition to the regulars already employed, to drive the Indians from their stations.

Here we have a specimen of the military strength of our Country. As war commences troops are wanted for immediate service, but where are they to be found? The farmer, mechanic & merchant are called from their employments, to fight an active enemy, without being instructed in one requisite for military service, while their families at home, in many instances, are reduced to want, and of course the troops can continue but a short time in the field. New detachments must then be made to supply their places composed of the same sort of troops

Defenseless State of the Country

troops. If the war continues for some time, regulars are ordered to be raised and instructed; this task is slow & before they are ready for the field the enemy ravage the frontiers and commit great destruction on lives and property. To remedy this difficulty, let Congress raise from their slumbers and place the militia on a proper footing. Let there be a select corps in each state, disciplined a certain time in the field annually, and paid and subsisted while on that duty, and bound to serve six or eight months when called into actual service. A body of troops under this system would always be ready, and before this time the Seminoles would have been brought to sue for peace, and the lives and property of the frontier inhabitants saved. But, say some of our wise men, this plan savors of a standing army! Be it so, if they please: But they must know, that without some such force, we are in immediate danger.

Gen. Lees sentiments on a militia

No man of discernment who has perused the letters written by Gen. Washington, during the revolutionary war, can for a moment entertain the least confidence in a undisciplined militia; and all other experienced officers entertain opinions perfectly coincident with those of Washington. We might extend this article by citations, not only from Gen Washington but from Genl. Green, Gen. Mercer, Baron Steuben, Gen. Hamilton ~~and~~ Gen. Henry Henry Lee and others. all attesting to the utter incapacity of undisciplined militia for the field.

Gen. Lee, who distinguished himself while Col. of a Legion, in the army of the revolution, gives the following sentiments in relation to the militia “Whenever the commitment of our militia in battle with regulars, occurs, the heart of the writer is rent with painful emotions; knowing as he does the waste of life resulting from the stupid, cruel policy. Can there be any system devised by the wit of man, more the compound of inhuman
ity

General Lees Sentiments

ity of murder and waste of resources?
 Ought any government to be respected
 which when peace permits substitution
 of a better system, neglects to avail
 itself of the opportunity. Were a father
 to put his son, with his small sword
 drawn for the first time, against an
 experienced swordsman, would not his
 neighbors exclaim "murderer! Vile
 murderer! Just so acts the Government;
 and yet our parents are all satisfied;
 although whenever war takes place, their
 sons are to be led to the altar of blood.
 Dreadful apathy! Shocking coldness
 to our progeny! Convinced as I am,
 that a government is the murderer of
 its citizens, which sends them to the
 field uninformed and untaught, where
 they are to meet men of the same age,
 mechanized by education and discipline
 for battle, I cannot withhold my denunciation
 of its wickedness and folly; much as I
 applaud, those instances of armed citizens
 vying with our best soldiers in the first
 duty of man to his Country"

Governor EatonMessages of Gov. Eaton to the
Legislature Council of Florida.

January 11, 1836.

The Indian War in Florida, though attended with much suffering on the part of the inhabitants, will, it is hoped furnish a useful lesson to our Government, respecting our defenseless state. Gov. Eaton seems to be sensible of the imperfection of the present militia system. In his message he says, "Your militia laws are wholly inadequate to the attaining any useful and salutary results; and if some effectual means be not resorted to, of drawing to the field, an active & sufficient force, fears are entertained that the Legislative Council of Florida may afford room for the malicious to heap opprobrium and censure, and call in question its patriotism"

"While you are deliberating in cold debate, desolation and war gather along your frontiers, and women and children are driven into insecure temporary forts, to
save

Defects of the Laws

save themselves from butchery. Encouraged by our supineness, the Indians will soon become bold and confident; and from their contiguity, may presently march upon the Council Chamber which you are occupying.”

The following contains pertinent remarks and wise hints.

“Promptitude in Indian warfare (and he might have said in all others) is ever important; and without activity and decision on your part, this cannot be effected. Your laws may do for a state of peace; but they are not suited to the purposes of war. Are you fearful of confiding to the Executive a right to compel the reluctant and unwilling to discharge a commander to their country; an authority which some are pleased to consider improper and dangerous? Have then the power any where that you choose. Let it, if you please, abide with a Committee of your own body. The Governor, unambitious of placing any

School boy notions

misplaced and hazardous power will cheerfully admit (submit) the trust in to the hands of any safe depository, which may be designated. His only object is to awaken a feeling of patriotism, and to inspire if he can, zeal for a bold and fearless discharge of those duties, which may give security to the frontiers. But what signifies those school boy notions about dangers to liberty, from the granting in this Territory, necessary authority for maintenance of peace and good order? Are our institutions of that fragile form that every fancied blast can move them?"

The remark of the Gov. that the laws may do for a state of peace, but not for the purposes of war is a happy one; and this will hold true in every state in the Union. So deeply are we engaged in the peaceful arts of agriculture, commerce and internal improvements, that we forget those of war, and military preparation, and rest in fancied security, though an enemy may be at our doors. True

Apathy of Congress in relation

it is alas! an active tribe of Indians may commit depredations on our frontiers, massacre the inhabitants and destroy property to an immense amount, before a competent force can be brought against them; and all this from the blind policy of our government, in not establishing the militia on a proper basis. Our present difficulty with France, and the near approach of war with that powerful kingdom, it is hoped, will rouse our government to efficient measures of defense. But should it remain under its present apathy, in this respect, the heedlessness will evince a stupidity which every patriot must regret, as a prelude to the distresses of a destructive war, without a competent force to sustain it.

We may still flatter ourselves that war may be avoided; that the wide Atlantic will forever secure us from European cupidity; but the time will come, when we shall learn that our only safety is in our military attitude; and those who would

to Defence of the States

adopt a quaker system will find that the world are not quakers, and that a military force, will still remain the ultima ratio regum³ in the nations of Europe. Let us then learn Wisdom, in the schools of Peace.

- 16 Sunday February 21. This day the weather has become more mild; the eves of our buildings giving
- 1836 streams of water from the melting snow, which load the roofs and we are comfortable in our sitting room with a common fire. We now flatter ourselves that the severity of winter is over, and that the balmy breeze from the south will soon prevail and restore us to activity and comfort. Should warm rains suddenly occur, tremendous floods must follow, sweeping our dams and bridges in destructive confusion, down our rivers, showing us how feeble are the arts of man when opposed to the operations of nature.

³ Latin. "The final argument of kings," motto engraved on the cannons of Louis XIV.

Congress Proceedings

A warm altercation is said to have taken place in the house of Representatives at Washington. Mr. Harden a member from Kentucky, sneeringly remarked, upon the bill to appropriate large sums for the several Navy Yards “that the public money was squandered upon the seaboard.”

Mr Cushing, of Massachusetts, made a very spirited reply, to which Mr. Harden again rejoined, in a very abusive manner, comparing Mr. Cushing to the great Tydides, Iyeleus’ son, and quoted the lines

“Dire was the charge, and dreadful from
Afar
 When great Tydides thundered in the
War.”⁴

Mr. Cushing said in reply, “that he regretted to see a gentleman, possessing neither the courage of Achilles for the fight, nor the wisdom of Ulysses for the council, but with the grey hairs of Nestor upon his head, playing in this house, the part of the sneering Thersites.” The

⁴ From a translation of Homer’s *The Iliad*, Book IV.

Classical Allusions.

The retort elicited a burst of applause from the gallery. Thus ~~those~~ classical gentlemen divert themselves and amuse the audience with their school boy lessons; “And grace and virtue, sense and reason split, with all rank dexterity of wit.”

A plain English scholar, unacquainted with the fabulous stories of Homer and Virgil, would have said “that he regretted to see a gentleman possessing ~~the~~ neither the courage of a hero for the fight, nor the sagacity of a wise man for the council, but with the grey hairs of a philosopher, upon his head, playing in this house, the part of a snarling critic.”

But there, being no allusion in such a retort to the ancient authors of Greece or Rome, it would probably passed in silence, and been considered by classical gentlemen as stale & insipid. And thus it is, that our orators and poets excite the stare of the multitude by their allusions to the jargon of ancient mythology, so much enforced under the [] of their masters, and

Our Colleges

occupy their minds in riper age, to the exclusion of the sublime truths of science. But to this [] we must submit, until a thorough revolution takes place in the modes of instruction in our colleges; and the living instead of the dead languages are taught. ~~by years of [] and seeking~~ in those seminaries—an improvement ~~[] disquieting to a people of scientific taste~~ much wanted.

True it is, as a sensible writer remarks, “His habits of abstract thoughts and close reasoning which a natural philosopher must necessarily acquire, are utterly incompatible with that quickness of association and versatility of thought, which are the principal sources of extemporaneous declaration. These antisocial habits, however, are less hostile to his colloquial efforts, than the nature of the subjects with which the mind of the natural philosopher is principally conversant. While the study of History, Poetry and Belles Letters furnish numerous and

interesting topics of general conversation, the man of science is prevented from introducing subject which would be generally unintelligible and is thus denied the opportunity of displaying his knowledge and his talents, which is granted to those who cultivate literature and the fine arts.”

But admitting that the colloquial talents of men of science, are less than those who cultivate literature and the fine arts, does it not follow that their speeches would be less useful less convincing? From such we might have more brief remarks and less parade of newspaper columns, but those better adapted to the reason of discerning men. Ancient mythology and the Greek and Roman poets, may now be suffered to rest on the moldy shelves of our obsolete libraries, in company with the worm eaten volumes of Thomas Aquinas and the old books of chemistry, without any real loss to the useful stock of knowledge.

18

Poetical Works

The Foreign Quarterly Review for Oct. 1835, has the following article in relation to the publication of Literary works. "Public opinion in Germany holds out little more encouragement to growing aspirants for practical distinction than it does in England; nay, there is such a [] for every thing like verse, that many of the principal book sellers will not publish any poetry. Every Leipzig fare nevertheless, brings at least thirty collections of poems, the authors of which, so far from receiving payment for them, have frequently themselves to defray the expenses of printing."

Are the Germans then losing a taste for belle letters, and turning their attention to works of [] and practical utility? This appears to be the fact, and the publication of such works meet with patronage. England too is following the same course; and Dramatic works in many parts of Europe are diminishing.

Does

Vitiated taste of Americans

Does this indicate an advance of human intellect, or a dereliction of a laudable taste? I think the former. A La Place or a Bowditch can find ~~have~~ little room for the imaginations of the past. In America the taste seems to be different: we are completely inundated with works addressed to the fancy, and if we read we do not learn from them any fixed principles leading to important results. We have news papers in abundance, which keep us alive to party politics; but by a great portion of the people, those are most esteemed, which contain the most trifling subjects, intermixed with the marvelous.

We hope the vitiated taste of our people will ere long be corrected by a thirst for solid learning. Books, especially American editions, may be obtained at a reasonable price. Thirty dollars will now purchase 60 Vols of Harpin's family Library, than which there is not to be found a more valuable selection. Will our young men still pay 30 dollars for a watch, in preference to this set of Books?

19

French Remarks on our
 The Journal des Debats a French
 Paper, remarking upon the dispute
 with America says
 “The Americans are destined to become
 a nation of the first order, in fact they
 are so at present, according to general
 acknowledgement. However, in point
 of military prowess they are, as yet,
 but novices, not with standing their
 excessive pretensions on this point,
 and our 14 centuries of glory cannot
 be effaced by the pertinent sorties
 of this infant Hercules.”

Thus it appears that our defence-
 less state is understood in France.
 One boast of a million of undisciplined
 men, they are aware, is idle and
 preposterous. When our government
 shall lesson this number to a proper
 size, and give them real military in
struction in camps, the nations of
 Europe will no longer laugh at our predictions
 and trifle with our rights. Our “school
boy notions” must be corrected, before
 we can claim to be an independent
 nation. Our laws are fitted only for
 a state of Peace; but war will come,

Military Defence.

when our farmers, mechanics and merchants will learn from sad experience, the stupidity of our Governments in not preparing an efficient force for our protection, while peace affords the means and opportunity.

20

Capt. Ross Narrative

The Foreign Quarterly Review for Oct. 1835, mentions as an extraordinary circumstance, that the Grand Duke of Hesse has granted to Capt. Ross an exclusive privilege, for twelve years, for the sale in his dominions of the Narrative of his last voyage in the English language, and also for the Governor translation of it made with his concurrence.

From this we conclude the Grand Duke holds Ross' Narrative in higher estimation, than the London Quarterly Review of July 1835, which criticized it with great severity. See Sketch Book No. 2, page 21 for a Review of the Review

Constitutions Corrupted

“The Constitutions of nations, like those of human bodies, insensibly become corrupted in time; when nature interposes, and exerting her native strength discharges the accumulated mischief, and purifying, restores them to their former vigor and function.” Westminster Review Oct. 1835.

If this be true, how shall we account for the fact? Are men more honest and virtuous when they form Constitutions, than when they have lived sometime under them?

This may be the case. Constitutions are first formed from necessity for the protection of the whole, and honest and honorable men undertake the task from the best motives; these at length give place to a new race, who are not always willing to be bound by their predecessors; and under practice of a progression of knowledge, they are disposed to try their skill at improvements. They are, they say, wiser than their fathers, and

by Time.-- Causes

think they have discovered errors in their system. Alterations are then made, to adapt them to a more improved state of society, But it will often be found that these innovations are made from selfish motives to give ~~them~~ an opportunity to elevate themselves to places of honor and profit. In general I think it a good rule to adhere to systems of government long tried, unless there are obvious errors, which is sometimes the case. And thus, in our own Constitution, the unwieldy representation shows dearly that it should be reduced. At the time it was adopted it might have been proper, or perhaps no better plan could then be introduced. But alterations should be made with great caution and reflection; and in general it will be found that three times out of four, they are not made for the better. I am not however rigidly attached to old systems because they are old; but I have seen much to satisfy me that we have

Mr. Guerry's Statistics

among us, many who are more guided by self than by principles; and who by specious arts can deceive the people and lead them into error.

Great efforts, it is true, are now making to improve the human mind, and it is hoped they will prove successful. But though we may have shaken off some of the absurdities of former times, it is not certain that we are a jot more honest than our progenitors. A late French writer has, as he thinks, proved by decisive evidence that public instruction not only has no effect whatever in diminishing the tendency of crime, but that it greatly increases it. The position is humiliating and we hope unfounded. See M. Guerry's celebrated work on the moral statistics of France. Much might be said on this subject pro and con, but we will not hence extend our remarks.

Florida War.

22 Accounts up to the 7th of February,
state, that Genl. Scott had arrived
at St. Augustine with 110 regular troops
1836 and that the Indians were burning
the plantations which had been de
serted, to the southward of that place.

Be patient Americans! Our Govern
ment will yet be able to subdue this
tribe of Indians. Only give them time
to raise troops, and we shall be
able to show the world how formi
dable we are as a military nation.

Rejoice France in thy prudence in
not making war with us. Had you
landed on our Coast and marched
for Washington, thou wouldst not have
formed a Bladensburgh, nor laid in
ashes our Capitol. We should
have put to flight thy veteran
vessels, with the armed freemen
the farmers, mechanics and mer
chants of our country, armed []
a pie for the fight. Ah! what can
stand before an undisciplined body of
“freemen, fighting in defense of their
wives, children and property?”

23

Algiers

The old policy of the nations of Europe in purchasing peace of those savages who held the world as enemies was of a most singular character, and disgraceful to civilization. The plea for this practice has been, that it was less expensive to purchase peace than to fight them. This may have been true, and the same might hold good in cases of dispute with other nations, yet the practice has not been adopted between civilized people.

The capture and retention of Algiers by the French, is an event most pleasing to the friends of liberty, and it is hoped that it will result in the civilization of that country so famous in Ancient History under the name of Numidia

The claims of the Algerians to capture & enslave Christians of Europe, until Lord Esemouth's attack on their city in August 1816, by the English and Dutch fleets, when the Dey was

Battle of Mascara

compelled to abolish it: yet it seems this did not extend to all the Christian nations. The French at length, sent a force and captured the City; and in stead of a treaty with a government on which so little dependence could be placed, they held it, by a military force.

(1835) By an account found in the late papers it appears that the arbas had collected an army for the recapture of the country. A force of four Brigades of French troops, under the Duke of Orleans, advanced against them on the 29th of November last, and met them on the great plain of the Sig, where a battle was fought, which terminated in the defeat of the Arabians. The French formed into a hollow square with their artillery and baggage in the centre, and on the 4th & 5th of December, attacked the enemy at Mascara, in mount Atlass and obtained a victory. The Arabian force is said to have consisted of about 4000 infantry and Cavalry. We rejoice at this French success in so laudable a cause.

24

Dedham Grant of 8000 Acres, at Deerfield

The following facts in relation to the Dedham Grant at Deerfield then called Petumtric or, Pocumtuc by the natives of the place, are taken from Erastus Worthington's History of Dedham.

"When the General Court ordered 2000 acres of land, within the town of Dedham, to be appropriated for an Indian village at Natick; it granted at the same time to the proprietors of that town, as a compensation therefor, 8000 acres of any uncultivated lands within the jurisdiction, whenever they might chose to have the land.

Exploring Committee }

In 1663 messengers were sent by the town to explore the chesnut country, probably some part of the County of Worcester near Lancaster. Report was made by the explorers, that the land was tolerably good, but hard to bring under cultivation, and there was not there a sufficiency of meadow. Soon after the report, John Fairbanks informed the selectmen there

Or Pocumtuc Grant

was some very good land about 12 miles from Hadley where the 8000 acres might be located, and they sent out John Fairbanks and Daniel Fisher to examine the land. They were instructed to go first to Sudbury and enquire of ensign Noys and if necessary to go to Lancaster to inquire of Good Willard, respecting the land. These men it seems after wandering many days in the hill country, covered with great trees of oak and chesnut” and describing the only settlements of white men seen on the journey viz Sudbury, Lancaster, and Hadley, returned to Dedham and made the following report.

Report
of }

“We at length arrived at the place we sought for. We called it Petumtuck because there dwell the Petumtuck Indians. Having ascended a little hill, apparently surrounded by rich meadow land; from that spot we beheld broad meadows, extending far north west and south of us. In these meadows

Curious Description of the

we could have the course of a fine River, which comes out from the mountains on the northwest, and running northerly, through many miles of meadow, seemed to us to run in among the hills again, at the northeast. The tall trees of button wood and elm, exposed to us its course. That meadow is not soft and covered with coarse water grass like that around us here, but is hard land. It is the best land that we have seen in the Colony; we dug holes in the meadow, with intent to find the depth of the soil, but could not find the bottom. At the foot of the little hill we stood on, is a plot of ground sufficiently large to build a village upon, and sufficiently high to be out of the reach of the spring floods. Providence led us to that place! It is indeed far away from our plantations, and the Canaanites and Amalihites dwell in that valley, and if they have any attachment to any spot on earth, must delight to dwell there.

Meadow by Dedham Committee

But that land must be ours. Our people have resolute and pious hearts and strong hands to overcome all difficulties. Let us go and possess the Land, and in a few years you will hear more boast of it in this Colony, as a land good for flocks and herds, than could ever be justly said of the land of Goshen, or any part of the land of Canaan.”

Deeds
obtained

Six persons were then appointed to repair to Petumtuck and locate the 8000 acres. Capt. John Pynchon of Springfield, was appointed & employed by the town, to purchase those lands of the Indians. He soon after performed that duty, and procured four deeds from the Indians, which wer afterwards deposited in deacon Aldis-box at Dedham. The town gave £94..10 for their deeds, which sum was procured by an assessment on the common rights of the Dedham proprietary”

Remarks

The “little hill” mentioned in the report, is supposed to ~~be is be~~

Original State

what is now called pine hill, in the North meadow, and the “plat of ground for a village” the land south and east of it, which was supposed to be sufficiently elevated above the spring floods, for that purpose. But it was soon found to be too low, and the village was laid out where it is now seen

The report does not state that the meadow was cleared at the time; but says the explorers could trace the River “by the tall trees” which would have been impracticable had it been covered with woods. But that it was elevated or partially so, is probable from the circumstance that great quantity of Indian corn was raised in it, by the natives, at the time of the Pequot war in Connecticut, in 1637.

Probably the meadow was much covered by ponds and morasses in early times; some parts since my recollection which are now drained were so. My Father stated to

Alteration of its surface

Indian
tradition }

me that old Indians informed his Father that they formerly chased the Beaver in their canoes through some ~~many~~ parts of the meadow from pond to pond; and one part, which is now dry land, is still called Beaver dam. The names given to different parts of the meadow are generally if not all, English, the Indian names being lost. (See old Deed)

Changes
of the River
Bed }

Changes, no doubt, have been made in the River, since the first settlement of the town by the English; in some instances we have ourselves witnessed them, and perhaps we shall be correct in asserting that the present channel in no place occupies precisely the same it did, at the time the Dedham explorers viewed it. The soil is evidently all alluvian and free from stones, to the depth of 10 or more feet, in many places intermixed with vegetable substances. The price per acre, of the best part of the meadow, at this time is 100 dollars, and in some instances higher; and it is generally rented at 8 or 10 per Cent per annum

Freshets

Fifty or sixty years ago, freshets were common, often speeding over the greatest part of the north meadow; sometimes bringing down from the mountains, immense masses of ice, which swept every thing before it; and when they occurred in the summer season the damage was often great. These rendered it difficult to fence out the lands, especially where they are low, and a common fence encloses the whole, following the higher grounds.

The water of the River is very clear and pure, when at its ordinary height; and thence being few stagnant ponds, the valley is, perhaps, as healthy as any place within the United States.

But not withstanding the fertility of our meadow, it is doubtful whether the profits of our farmers are equal to those of our hill towns, where pasturing is abundant and stacks of cattle are raised for the market; The want of pasturage is severely felt by the farmers of our valley.

Pine

Pine Hill

Pine Hill which has been mentioned in the preceding remarks, is rather a singular elevation; it approaches to the form of a parallelogram containing say from 30 to 40 acres, and much of it is still covered with woods. It rises abruptly on all sides & the easterly part forms a beautiful plain; west of this plain it rises to a considerable elevation then falls off suddenly; the plain & elevation resembling the rampart & parapet of a large fortification. A pond borders on the westerly side, formerly of a considerable surface, but now reduced by a drain to the river. On the northwest point of the hill, I have noticed excavations which we call Indian cellars, and probably this was the site of one of their forts, which overlooked the northerly part of the meadow. It is supposed that our valley was once covered by an expansion of the waters of our river, and that at the Green store dike below Cheapside, was a fall which has been removed by the abrasion of the waters. This supposition, no doubt is well founded.

25

Special Message

Message of the President of the US
to the two houses of Congress, February
22, 1836

His message announces that the difficulties between us and France have been settled by the generous and honorable interference of the the British Government. The President then takes the occasion to rouse Congress to the dangers of our Country from its defenseless state, which we are highly gratified to see, in the following language

“I may be permitted, I think, at this time without a suspicion of the most remote desire to throw off censure from the Executive, or to point to any other department, or branch of the Government, to refer to the want of effective preparation in which our Country was found at the late arises. From the nature of our institutions, the movements of the government in preparation for hostilities must ever be slow for the exigencies of unexpected war. I submit it to you, whether the first duty we owe to the people who have confided to us

President Suggestions

us their power, is not to place our country in such an attitude as always to be so amply supplied with the means of self defense as to afford no inducement to other nations to presume upon our forbearance, or to expect important advantages from a sudden assault, either upon our commerce, or sea coast, or our interior frontier. In case of the commencement of hostilities during the recess of Congress, the time necessarily elapsing before that body could be called together, even under the most favorable circumstances, would be pregnant with danger, and if we escaped without signal disaster or national dishonor the hazard of both, unnecessarily incur red, could not fail to excite a feeling of deep reproach. I earnestly recommend to you, therefore, to make such provisions that in no future times shall we be found without ample means to repel aggression even although it come upon us without note or warning. We are now fortunately so situated that the expenditure for this purpose will not be felt,
and

Washington's Sentiments

and if it were, it would be approved by those from whom all its means are derived, and for whose benefit only it should be used with a liberal economy and an enlightened forecast.”

“In behalf of these suggestions I cannot forbear repeating the wise precepts of one whose councils cannot be forgotten: ‘The United States ought not to indulge a persuasion that, contrary to the order of human events, they will forever keep at a distance those painful appeals to arms with which the history of every other nation abounds. There is a rank due to the United States among nations, which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it. If we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war’”⁵

Every suggestion in the above extract wise and timely, and ought

⁵ From *Fifth annual message of George Washington*, December 3, 1793.

Remarks

instantly to rouse Congress from their astonishing supineness. Ample provision no doubt will be made for fortifications on the sea board, but it is feared Congress will do nothing important, towards providing men to defend them. They may perhaps look at the militia system for a moment, and submit the subject to a committee; but nothing efficient I predict, will be done neither at the present session, nor any future one, until a war actually reaches our shores and our fire sides; when our wives, our children and our property will be at the mercy of a ruthless enemy. The old song of Lexington, Concord, Bunker's Hill and Bennington will still be sounded in our ears; and the prowess of undisciplined freemen, will again lull us into fatal security. Mercantile affairs, banks and banking and internal improvements will continue their absorbing influence over the minds of the avaricious; the militia will still play with its epauletts, feathers and bawbles, ~~and~~ real military science disappears and the

Remarks

nations of Europe continue to laugh at our puerile notions of defence. War is a great evil to any country, and to avert it, we should ~~we would~~ prepare for it in time of peace. We must not only fortify our great sea ports, but place our militia on a proper foundation. We would give up the notion that all should be soldiers-select a sufficient number and give them field discipline in time of peace, so far as to instruct them in the duties of the camp, holding them ready for service on the shortest notice. Unless this scheme be adopted we shall be compelled to resort to a standing army.

We rejoice that the dispute with France has terminated without a war; but had this scourge come to our shores, and a few cases like that at Bladensburg occurred, it would have taught us how totally unprepared we are for defence, and perhaps have aroused Congress from its lethargy in this respect.

A conquest of our Country by any

Operations of an Invading Army

nation on the other side of the Atlantic and we have none on this side to fear, we believe is impossible. An invading army of experienced troops, under an able officer might however do us immense damage. Such an army might march in any direction, with but faint resistance from our militia. The only difficulty, if the invading army be numerous, would be to procure subsistence. This might induce a cautious commander to prefer the former route, by which he could procure supplies. when found insufficient from a coasting squadron. Our only safe course, in either case, would be to retire from the invaders and recapture the country in their zeal which they had left. Should they leave garrisons in temporary fortifications in the rear, which of course would be weak, we might capture them or starve them out. Should the invaders consist of 100,000 their mean body would soon be reduced to small numbers, by leaving garrisons sufficiently numerous to hold the country.

Could not conquer us

A system of operation very different from this would be adopted, a large portion of the army would be kept compact, while the cavalry and light troops would continuously spread in various directions in front and flanks, to procure forage and other supplies; and upon these we might sometimes make successful attacks; but in all situations the main body would be secure.

Hence it is evident though the invaders might march through our Country, they would not be able to hold it, with any force that could be brought from any one nation in Europe.

But we ought to be able to present a force competent to stop them ~~the~~ ~~invaders~~, and though we have very few soldiers. Numbers are of little consequence without discipline; in such a case, the greater the numbers the greater the confusion that would attend them. The strength of a country consists in the men that can be paid, victualised and clothed. The others are not soldiers.

The weather

26 Since our last notice, under this Article
 1836 Feby 21st the weather has been variable:
 some slight falls of rain and considerable
 snow have arrived, but in general the
 cold has continued severe, and the snow
 about its former depth. Our wells still
 continue very low, and we are in great
 want of water for our cattle. This day, March
 1st, we have some rain, but it makes little
 impression upon the snow. We have
 a good quantity of wood in our yard,
 but it is buried so deep with snow, as
 to render laborious to get it out.

The Legislature

27 This body has been sitting seven weeks
 1836 or more, and business is crowding upon
 them. Many New projects are on the
 carpet, and it seems as if the session was
 the first after the adoption of the Con
 stitution. Shall we ever become settled
 down to a regular and practicable sys
 tem? The mode of transacting business
 is tardy from the numerous representation
 in the house. All petitions and motions
 sustained, are submitted to Committees
 who

Transaction of Business tardy

require sometime to examine them, and make their reports; and when made, for or against them, it often happens that the majority of the members know nothing of their merits. Generally the house has little to do at first except to meet and adjourn, and wait for the reports of the Committees, and thus, six or seven weeks are spent in the first part of a session, each member charging his two dollars per day small wages to be sure; but the boarding houses are well compensated in the meantime.

Recently a petition has been presented by or through, the influence of our neighbors of Greenfield, to set off by ninety three miles, including Cheap side, so called, and our lands sequestered by our Fathers, for the ministry in Deerfield—A modest demand indeed! The moving cause of this step is plain; Greenfield wants money and Greenfield must have it, as Bonaparte told the U.S. in a similar case.

28

Variation of the Needle

Nathan Wild's Almanaks for 1836 gives the following statement of the variation of the needle, at Chesterfield, NH.

Mean for 1812 $6^{\circ}..26'$ West; from that time to 1820 it was decreasing and at that date it was 6° West. From 1828 the variation increased as follows
 $1828=6^{\circ}..5'2$: $1829=7^{\circ}$: $1830=7^{\circ}..0'6$: $1831=7^{\circ}..1'0$
 $1832=7^{\circ}..1'5$: $1833=7^{\circ}..3'0$: $1834=7^{\circ}..3'5$.

We omit the years from 1821 to 1827, in which the variation was increasing, though not in an equal ratio. The change according to this statement was between 1820 and 1821. I had fixed it about 1811 or 1812. The variation at Concord NH, is said to be about 1° greater than at Chesterfield, and about the same at Claremont as at Concord, and that as we go south erly and westerly by variation decreases. His line of no variation is supposed to be between "here" and the Pacific Ocean. We can inform Mr. Wild that he will find this line to the east ward of Niagara Falls, if he will examine writers on the subject. The results given by Mr. Wild I think, are not entirely accurate; but they go to show that

that the westerly variation is increasing; which by my observations, is at the rate of 4 ½ minutes in a year. See Sketch book No. 1, page 4. Further observations may be necessary to determine the rate of increase, and it may not be found to be regular. To what the change is owing, remains a question. See Cavallo's Treatise on Magnetism, page 326, A seq. The curious discoveries that have recently been made, in Electro magnetism, induce us to believe, that our present theories of Magnetism are very imperfect. See Eding. Eney. art. Thermo-Magnetism

29

Florida War

From Augustine Feby 10th we have the following occurrence. A Leut. Ward of the volunteers attached to Gen. Clark's command had mutinied and threatened to shoot his Col. Parish: he was immediately shot dead by the latter. Col. Parish had been tried by a Court martial. The consequence was that all the volunteers
left

Volunteers

left Gen. Clark with his free companies of regulars, and he had at that time received no reinforcement. NY Cour. & Eng.

Hence we have another specimen of militia service in the field. Instances of insubordination constantly occur among them; nor is it easy to bring undisciplined men to a due submission to the rules and articles indispensably necessary in an army. Col. Parish was probably rash in the step he took, and is answerable to the articles of war. But this rashness is not a justification of the conduct of the volunteers in deserting the service. Such occurrences, however, will often happen in a militia corps, and ought to teach us the danger of trusting to them for our defense. It is hoped our government will at length see the force of the adage "in peace prepare for war," and no longer trust our defence to military volunteers, who go where they please, fight when they think proper, and return home at their pleasure, leaving the commander to contend with the army, without a force

Humboldt's Researches

Among the numerous voyages and travels which have been given to the public none appear to me to be more important than the Travels and Researches of Alexander Von Humboldt and his associate M. Aime Bonpland; the former a Prussian and the latter a Frenchman. These Gentlemen explored the equinoctial regions of our Continent, in the years 1799-1800-1801-1802 1803 & 1804, and much of their researches have been laid before the public, and when complete, it is said, they will make 12 Vol. 4 to, 3 in folio, two collections of geographical designs, and one of picturesque views. Some of the works have been translated into English, that by Mrs. Williams under the title of Voyage aux Regions Equinoxiales des Nouocau Continet, pendant les annees 1799 to 1804, an octavo edition is found in some of our Bookstore though rather randy.

The astronomical treatises have been published in 2 quarto Vols. under the

in America

title of Recueil d'Observations Astronomiques et de Mesures exécutées dans le Nouveau Continent: And contain the original observations made between the 12th degree of south Lat. and 41st of W Lat. the transits of the sun and stars over the meridian—occultations of satellites, eclipses &c : a treatise on astronomical refractions under the torrid zone, considered as the effect of the [] of caloric in the strata of the atmosphere;- the barometric measurement of the Andes of Mexico, Venezuela, Quito and new Grenada; together with a table of nearly 700 geographical positions. The greatest pains have been taken to verify the calculations

Humboldt presented to the Bureau des Longitudes his astronomical observations on the lunar distances and observations of Jupiter's satellites, together with the Barometrical elevations, which have been calculated and verified by M. Prony according to the formulae of La Place

A condensed narrative of the Travels and Researches of Humboldt, has been published in 12 mo. Vol. by W—

His Travels in Asia

Macgillioray which is included in Harper's Family Library.

Sometime after the return of Humboldt from America, he set out on a Journey to Asia to explore the most interesting parts of that region. He accomplished the task; but this part of his travels had not appeared, when Macgillioray wrote the condensed narrative in 1832.

The whole of the works of this learned traveler will afford the highest interest to men of science, and it is a matter of regret that more of them are not translated into our language.

The extensive scientific works which are constantly appearing, in France, Germany and other nations on the old Continent, prove most cleverly the importance of studying their languages in our Colleges, instead of the dead languages of Greece & Rome—fruitful sources of Poetry and other works addressed to the fancy but not of science and useful knowledge. And I hesitate not

to

to say, that until these defunct and
disquieting branches of pretended know
ledge, shall be less attended to in our
Colleges, science among our scholars
will remain at a low ebb. The
tinsel thrown over them by long
custom may for some time to come
excite the stare of the unthinking; but
the enlightened will at length perceive that
the science of modern nations
is not to be rejected for the mytholog
ical jargon of the ancients. When the
nations of Europe first emerged from
their barbarous state, the little of
science known was locked up
in Greek and Latin authors; but all
that has been found useful in them is now
translated and is hardly worth our
study of them at this day, to spend our
time to perceive their "beauty of style"
Modern authors furnish us with
all that is wanted in this particular
The sooner we rid ourselves of this
ignis fatuus⁶ the better. Future gener
ations will smile at our long delusion,
but they will perceive the cause.

⁶ Latin for "foolish fire," meaning something deceptive or deluding.

31

Legislature. Requestion of Antimasons

In the House, March 1st, a Communication was received from the Antimasonic Members of the Legislature, opposed to the nomination of Martin Van Buren as a candidate for the next Presidency requesting the use of the Representative Chamber, on Wednesday evening next week, for holding a Convention therein which was granted.

The nomination of Mr. Van Buren by a convention of Antimasons, has led to this step, and it appears that a difference of opinion prevails among our friends which I regret to see. Our opponents will instantly seize on this division and use it for the furtherance of their designs. As respects myself I have regretted that the first convention should have selected Mr Van Buren instead of Mr. Webster; the latter we know to be an antimason, the former we only infer to be such, and the inference may be fallacious. Why our old friend Mr Hallett should be so zealously in favor of the former, I

Antimasonic Division

I cannot readily devise. As in inflexible antimason we have considered him one of the first in the state, and of his talents we have always been proud; but in this movement we consider him to have committed an error. He seems to be rather too strongly attached to the democratic party. We do not object to the term, if it means the republican party, such as was Gen. Washington; but judging from Mr Hallett's severe remarks on the Hartford Convention we are induced to believe by democracy he means that of Mr Jefferson and others who were opposed to Gen. Washington; some of whom congratulated themselves on the retirement of the latter from office, "that he was reduced to the level of his fellow citizens, and was no longer able to canker the principles of republicanism." This division among anti-masons we regret, and think that the dispute about the presidency, ought not to have produced it. Time and reflection we hope will cure the breach, when we shall unite in our greatest object, the destruction of masonry.

Astronomical Works

- 32 Tichnor of Boston advertises a New and improved Edition of the Geography of the Heavens, and Class Book of Astronomy accompanied by a Celestial Atlas- by Elijah Burritt A.M. 3d Edition, with an introduction by T. Dicks. L.L.D. author of the Christian Philosopher.

This I had supposed was an American work, but as Dr. Dick has written the introduction I think it must be English. The Celestial Atlas, if well executed, must be valuable as a substitute for a celestial Globe.

- 33 John Ledyard

The following tribute of respect has been bestowed on the female sex by this adventurous traveler.
 “I have observed among all nations, that the women ornament themselves more than the men; that wherever found, they are the same kind, civil, obliging, humane, tender beings; that they are ever inclined to be gay and cheerful, timorous & modest. They do not hesitate, like
 man

Female Character attested

man, to perform a hospitable or generous action; not haughty, nor arrogant, nor supercilious, but full of courtesy, and fond of society; industrious, economical, ingenious; more liable in general to err than man, but in general also more virtuous, and performing more good actions than he. I never addressed myself in the language of decency and friendship to a woman, either civilized or savage, without receiving a decent and friendly answer. With man it has often been otherwise. In wandering over the barren plains of inhospitable Denmark, through honest Sweeden frozen Lapland, rude and churlish Finland, unprincipled Russia, and the wide spread regions of wandering Tarter, if hungry, dry, cold, wet, or sic, women has ever been friendly to me, and uniformly so; and to add to this virtue, so worthy of the appellation of benevolence, these actions have been performed in so fierce and kind a manner, that if I was dry I drank the sweet draught, and if

Ledyards Death

hungry ate coarse morsel, with a double relish.”

This enterprising man was born at Groton in Connecticut in 1751, and after circumnavigating the earth in the last expedition of Capt. Cook, and traversing many parts of Russia, died at Cairo in Egypt Nov 1788, while preparing for an extensive tour into the interior of Africa, under the patronage of the African Association. His Life has been given to the public by Jared Sparks, in an 8 vo vol; and also in the Family Library of the Harpers. A more particular account of Ledyards descent of Connecticut River, from Hanover to Hartford, in a Canoe of his own construction, previous to the commencement of revolutionary war, would afford us much satisfaction at this day.

At the time Ledyard made his voyage down the River, had the prediction of Dr Darwin,
“Soon shall thy arm unconquered steam!

Afar
Drag the slow barge or drive the rapid
Car”⁷

⁷ From Erasmus Darwin’s *Botanic Garden*, Part 1.

Reflections

not his eye, and he been told that in 1834 a heavy boat of his name would ascend as high as the mouth of our river, by this power alone, he would have smiled at the predictions, as the visionary aberrations of the utopian philosopher. But wonderful as it is, we have the satisfaction of seeing the predictions fulfilled.[‡]

34

of a well regulated Mind.

In his view of the qualities & acquirements which constitute a well regulated mind, Dr. Abercrombie ranks them under the following heads. See part 5th of "Inquiries concerning the Intellectual Powers and the Investigation of Truth" 1 Vol. 2d Edition

1. The cultivation of a habit of steady and continuous attention; or [] directing the mind to any subject which is before it, so as fully to contemplate its elements and relations ----- 2.

[‡]The first steam Boat from Hartford upon the River was called the Ledyard; but the present one that reaches us, has the name of Arid Cooley

Modes of Obtaining it

2. Nearly connected with the former, and of equal importance, is a careful regulation and control of the succession of our thoughts.

3. The cultivation of an active inquiring state of mind which seeks for information from every source that comes within its reach, whether in reading, conversation, or personal observation.

4. The habit of correct association; that is connecting facts in the mind according to their true relations, and to the manner in which they tend to illustrate each other.

5. A careful selection of the subjects to which the mind ought to be directed.

6. A due regulation and proper control of the imagination; that is restricting its range to objects which harmonize with truth, and are adapted to the real state of things with which the individual is or may be connected

7. The cultivation of calm and correct judgment—applicable alike
to

Dr. Abercrombie's Remarks

to the formation of opinions, and the regulation of conduct.

Under the 5th head the Dr. has the following remarks.

“These are in some respects different in different persons, according to their situation in life; but there are certain objects of attention which are peculiarly adapted to each individual, and there are some which are equally interesting to all. In regard to the latter, an appropriate degree of attention is the part of every wise man; in regard to the former, a proper solution is the foundation of excellence. One individual may waste his powers in that desultory application of them which leads to an imperfect acquaintance with a variety of subjects; while another allows his life to steal over him in listless inactivity, or application of trifling pursuits. It is equally melancholy to see high powers devoted to unworthy objects; such as the contests of party on matters involving no important principle, or the subtleties of sophistical

Judicious Directions

Practice }
of writing }

controversy. Fear rising to eminence in any intellectual pursuit, there is not a rule of more essential importance than that of doing one thing at a time; avoiding distracting and desultory occupations; and keeping a leading object habitually before the minds, as one in which it can at all times find an interesting resource when necessary avocations allow the thoughts to recur to it. A subject which is cultivated in this manner, not by regular periods of study merely, but as an habitual object of thought, rises up and expands before the mind in a manner which is altogether astonishing. If along with this habit there be cultivated the practice of constantly writing such views as arise, we perhaps disorder that state of mental discipline by which talents of a very moderate order may be applied in a conspicuous and useful manner to any subject to which they are devoted. Such writing need not be made at first with any great
at

Remarks

attention to method, but mainly put aside for future consideration; and in this manner the different departments of a subject will develop and arrange themselves as they advance in a manner equally pleasing and wonderful.”

The method proposed by Dr. Abercrombie accords with my own observations and I had adopted it in part previous to the perusal of his work. By keeping the mind intent upon certain objects, and bending my studies to them, I have never been at a loss what authors to select for perusal; and this has given a relish which I think cannot be attained by a cursory perusal of Books on subjects which I have deemed indifferent.

35

Division Among Antimasons

In the Boston Advocate of the 7th of March, we find the following from the pen of BF Hallett Esqr.

“Every pretended or real antima-
son who now takes the ground of op-
position to the regular nomination

Severe Consensus

of the antimason Convention, unites himself to the Whig party. He has no alternative. He may call himself an antimason, as much as he pleases. He is nothing but a whig, supporting Whig proscription, Whig doctrines and Whig masons. If there are any good natured Spaniels in our party, who love the Whigs the better, the more they are beaten by them, let them enlist under Gen. Longley and George Johnson. Such men only weaken any party to which they pretend to belong.

It has been my aim to keep anti mason informed and united, as the only means to destroy the pernicious institution of masonry; and heretofore M. Hallett has been a most powerful Auxiliary. But by the foregoing paragraph he has taken the most direct course he possibly could, to produce a discussion which would not easily be united. His zeal for Mr Van Buren seems to carry him to extravagant lengths, and if he

Remarks

does destroy our cause, he will work a great injury to it. What has the presidency of the US to do with antimasonry? We should, it is true prefer a candidate who is opposed to the institution of masonry, to one who is not, and for this reason some of us select Mr. Webster, whom we know to be opposed to it. But according to Mr. Halletts doctrine no one even a real antimason in favor of Mr. W. can claim to be genuine. The paragraph we have given above, we hope was written in one of his unguarded moments, and which on a little reflection we trust will acknowledge, was remiss and highly injurious to our cause. Should he however persist in similar vituperations, we shall be compelled to consider him, instead of a friend, a most decided enemy to it. We hope he will pause and reflect on the tendency of his course, and give no further cause to our opponents, to exalt in our unnecessary division.

The weather

36 Since our last notice under this head
 (the 21st of February) the weather has gener-
 ally been cold and dry and the water
 1836 in our wells very low. Yesterday, March
 10th, we had a rain but not in great
 quantity; the snow is a little reduced
 but where drifted it continues in
 many places, nearly to the top of the
 fences, and gloomy winter holds
 it reign. As I had anticipated,
 our farmers, especially in the hill
 towns, begin to be distressed from
 a want of fodder for cattle, and
 hay has already sold from 20 to
 25 dollars a ton. Indian corn is
 good at one Dollar, and most of
 the necessities of life are high.
 Our farmers may suffer much before
 the snow is dissolved and vegetation
 clothes the ground.
 Cold The present well deserves the name
 weather of the cold winter of 1835-'36, not
 less so than that of 1779-'80. The sever-
 ity of the winter will, by some, no
 doubt, be attributed to the influence
 of Halleys Comet⁸ which appeared

⁸ Halley's Comet

1836

Subterranean Fires

last Fall, but this I think has had no effect on the weather. If it could be shown that the earth had been enveloped in the comets tail which rendered our atmosphere more turbid than usual, there might be some foundation for the supposition. But this will not be pretended by any acquainted with the positions of the two bodies, during the appearance of the comet; at no time was the tail in the direction of the earth. Changes of climate, it will be found, are not at all effected by planetary or cometic influence. The hypothesis if internal fires affords a more probably solution of these changes; and if this be admitted, the only question will be why the effect of these fires should be different in different seasons? Future observations and discoveries may furnish data on this subject, and, perhaps, indications which may enable philosophers to predict, with some degree of certainty, the state of an approaching winter.

37

Greenfield Petition

In an old Book which is sometimes cited as good authority, we have a case which bears some analogy to that now before Legislature, (between Greenfield and Deerfield) Whether the gentlemen of the Law will consider it of equal authority with Black stone, I know not; but if it is inadmissible in our modern Judicial Courts I believe it will not be rejected as obsolete, by a Committee of a Legislature who admits its validity. I refer to the 21st Chapter of the 1st Book of Kings, and will quote a few of its verses.

1. “And it came to pass, after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, hard by the place of Ahab king of Samaria.

2. And Ahab spoke unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: And I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or if it

Ahab's Demand on Naboth

seem good to thee I will give thee the worth of it in money.

3. And Naboth said to Ahab, the Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my Fathers unto thee.

4. And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased, because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his beds, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

5. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, why is thy spirit so said, that thou eatest no bread?

As the story is of the same length I will endeavor to abridge it.

Ahab remained sad and still refused to eat despairing of gaining possession of the favorite garden. Not so with the artful Jezebel. She it seems, did not despair of the garden, It was fair and furnished a pleasant promenade

The Sequel

for her ladyship, and being near her house, probably she had often visited it and ~~seen~~ noted its beauties. Naboth's attachment to it, because it was the inheritance of his fathers, did not lessen her cupidity. She first attempts to rouse the King from his despondency, by reminding him of his dignity & power. "Dost thou not Govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the Vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." Now her insidious arts were put in requisition, and it seems they were ready. She writes letters in the name of Ahab, to the Elders and Nobles sealed with his seal, accusing Naboth of the crimes of blasphemy & treason, and sent men of Belief to prove the charges. The scheme succeeded, and Naboth was found guilty and stoned to death. Having thus accomplished her object, she went to Ahab and apprised him of it. ~~on which Ahab~~ Ahab was immediately cured of his

Denunciations

dyspepsy: he rose from his bed
 to go down to the vineyard of Na
 both to take possession of it”
 But retributive justice was not asleep
 The Lord sent Elijah the Tishbite,
 to Ahab, with heavy denunciations
 against him and his family. “because
 he had sold himself to work evil
 in the sight of the Lord.”
 When Ahab heard the words from
 Elijah, he was struck with his
 wickedness, rent his clothes, and
 put on sackcloth & fasted and lay
 in his robes, and went softly
 “And the word of the Lord came to
 Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou
 how Ahab humbleth himself be
 fore me? because he humbleth
 himself before me, I will not bring
 the evil in his days; but in his
 son’s days will I bring the evil
 upon his house”

How far the case I have cited
 is analogous to the one before the
 Committee, I leave to their judgment.
~~of the Committee.~~ I will not say
 that

The Case I have cited from this old authority, appears to me to be analogous to the one before the Committee: in on particular it is strikingly so. The vineyard of Naboth was near to the house Ahab-he wanted it for a garden of herbs; in modern language, for a Botanic garden, to embellish his place; and perhaps he thought his subjects would thus “have greater facilities of access to the means of Education,” which he believed were not to be found in Jezreel. But Naboth was deaf to the acts of the King. He indignantly repelled the unjust demand. The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the Inheritance of my Fathers unto thee”

In one point the cases ~~is~~ are different. Ahab offered Naboth an equivalent, in land or money. Not so with our ~~the~~ modest [] Petitioners. No! the Garden is wanted because it is near unto the house and their families would find “greater facilities of access” to the seat of polite learning. found near the Palace!

—without

‡See over other side (Note)

without further comment, Gentlemen
I have the case in your hands, with
the hope, that if a Jezebel has been
at work, in this project, the fate
of Ahab will not await its pro-
jectors; and whatever may be
your discussion I also hope, no
evil will be brought upon their
“sons or their house”.—In the du-
tiful & expressive language of Naboth I say,
The Lord forbid it me, that I should
give the Inheritance of my Fathers
unto thee.”

‡ In our case the punishment of stoning we
trust will not be inflicted
The punishment of stoning may
(also be laid out of the case) for
whatever may have been maybe the acts of Jezebel
we hardly believe they will ex-
tend to this. An Elijah has
appeared & opened the eyes of Ahab, and
taught him that our Garden of herbs
is not to be wrested from us by all
the acts of a ~~Jezebel~~ ~~relentless~~
~~wife agent~~ woman.

This supposed □ is too small: 7 ¼ miles by 4 miles is nearer on this supposition and including parts extensive, I find the Area, by a rough approximation, 19,807 acres; but this geometrically correct Greenfield by a similar method 12,770 acres. All waters included in both

that a Jezebel has been at work.
 nor that the fate of Ahab will await
 the projectors of the Petitioners whatever may be the
 result of the plan, I hope no evil
 will be brought upon their “sons
 or their “house”

38. Estimated Area of Deerfield.

Though we have several Maps of the town it does not appear that the area of its present limits have been accurately given. Its extent from north to south on a right line is about 7 miles, and east & west about 3 miles, but it is somewhat multangular. But if reduced to a parallelogram, I think it would not differ greatly from one of 7 miles by 3 for its two sides. Thus there will give 21 square miles=13440 acres including the ponds and river. A township of 6 miles square, which is the usual size in new Counties, contains 23,040 acres and the difference is 9600 acres, less than an ordinary township. The area of the

Area Included in Temple's Petition

part to be set off to Greenfield, by the
prayer of the petition of Philo Temple
and others, may be equal to a parallel
ogram of about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles, by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a
mile, making an Area of 1320 acres

From the area of Deerfield 13440

Deduct area of the Petitioner 1320

Leaves in Deerfield 12120 acres

A trifle over half a township of 6

miles square.

Population by last Census 2003

Last valuation \$525.162,72

The tract proposed to be set off to

Greenfield, includes all that part of the

8000 acres granted to Dedham, that lies

north of Deerfield River; and also

all the Lands sequestered, now the

property of the North Parish in this town

and had the petition included the meet

ing house, I should have viewed the

attempt as equitable as that for which

the signers lay claim. Nor is it to be

supposed any committee who under

stand it in all its bearings, will sustain

even for a moment. On

See p.
62

Additional Grants

on a petition of the inhabitants of the town presented to the General Court may 1673, the Court granted a “township” as an addition to the 8000 acres formerly granted to Dedham, equal to the contents of 7 miles square This was bounded westerly by a line called the seven mile line, and included the greatest part of the present towns of Deerfield Greenfield and Gill, Connecticut River being the eastern boundary.

In May 1712, this west line of the town was extended by the Gen Court “9 miles from the Connecticut into the woods, as Northampton & Hatfield do”; and two islands in the Connecticut, against the town were included in the grant. This addition comprehended the present towns of Conway & Shelburn.

The seven mile line was run N19°E I suppose a parallel to the general course of the Connecticut, and the extended grant of 1712, was bounded west on a line parallel to the 7 mile line. Greenfield

Greenfield set off

Greenfield, bounded south on the 8000 acre Grant, was set off from Deerfield June 9 1753 bounding west on the west end of the first tier of lots west of the 7 mile Line; north on Colrain, Leyden and Bernardston and east in Connecticut River, and included the present town of Gill. Greenfield at the time of separation was called a District and was connected with Deerfield in the choice of a Representative.

39

Florida War.

No important movements of our Army have been made up to the 1st of March, and it remains to be seen whether the contest will soon be terminated. A Mr. Wyatt of Tallahassee, writes as follows

The Indian force may be estimated at 4,000 effective men, including negroes—the country they occupy being about 300 miles long and 125 broad, the centre (two thirds) of which is covered with a chain of lakes, studded with islands, and almost endless glades, chequered with lagoons, and deep narrow streams, making in all

Nature of the seat of war

directions into the sea, and cooked over with mats and evergreens and high grass; the other part being fertile land, abounding in empty or arid root. an excellent substitute for bread, and producing a variety of fruits; the adjacent forests filled with wild game, and the adjacent waters ~~filled~~ with fish and wild fowl. Mr. Wyatt further expresses his opinion that the Indians who have had much intercourse, and some intermarriages with the Spanish fisherman, entertain the vain hope of finally escaping to the West Indies, with their negroes, and that it will be necessary to encompass them by blockhouses on land, and armed vessels or boats by water, so as to break up all communication between them and the Spanish fishermen, and run away negroes, or they may pass up a petty war with us for the next five years. He recommends a line of blockhouses extending from the gulf to the Atlantic, about 20 miles apart, with small garrisons,

Favorable to the Indians

by the way of Wetumkee and Picolata, to some point south of Augustin and says it will be impossible to follow the savages by land during the rainy season, and that a new expedition to the cape and everglades is not to be looked for sooner than August or September.

Why not an earlier expedition?

Answer: Because the United States have little or no force ready for the service other than undisciplined men, to be chaffed from the present militia—a miserable excuse for a nation that boasts of its means of defence as we do. But alas! it is so, and will remain so, until Congress are raised from their supineness, and remodde the militia; giving up the childish notion that every citizen of the United States is a soldier; than which never was a more absurd notion entertained by men of common sense. Time will cure the evil but individuals will suffer until this takes place

My Winter Quarters

40

During the severe winter, which
I hope is nearly past, though elected a
Representative for Deerfield, I have
remained at home, not choosing to venture
myself at Boston with my lame limb
and other infirmities. I have not, how

1836

ever, been an idle spectator of events;
the newspapers and other publica
tions of the day, have furnished me with
their history and it is with regret that
I observe a restless spirit among our
people. One would have supposed
that so long after our Constitutions had
been in operation, we should have
settled down into a fixed system
of repose; but this is not the case
we are in pursuit of new projects, and
business in the Legislature of our
Country, appears as numerous & various as if
we had just commenced our career
of Government. I had predicted that
the Legislature having held an extra
session last year, would find little busi
ness at the present. But this is not the
case. by warrents up to the 15th of
March it appears petitions are

Proceedings of the Legislature

constantly coming in, and unless the Legislature continues through the coming April, much of the business must be put over to the next session.

This state of things, indicates that we are far from a settled state, and in what it will end is doubtful. The right of petitioning the Legislature is a provision of the Constitution; but is there not some mode by which this can be regulated, so as to dispose of them more expeditiously, and shorten our sessions? Suppose all petitions for the alteration of laws, or for enacting new ones, as well as those for incorporations, were required to be published in the news papers, sometime previous to the sitting of the Legislature, would not this system check the number and by giving previous notice to the people, expediate the business. Should this be put in practice, the delay from orders of notice would be avoided, and the people would know what course to take concerning them. Unless something be done to cure the present evil, we must continue in

Remarks

a State of turmoil, strife and confusion, as much perhaps to be dreaded by the peaceful man, as the calm of a despotism.

Were none but honest and honorable men entrusted with the government these difficulties would cease; but as the people are the first deposit of power, they have the right to intrust it with such as they please; and as they are not always free from ambition & erroneous conclusions they may sometimes err in the choice of rulers; who from a want of true patriotism pursue measures rather for their own aggrandizement, than that of their country.

How this evil is to be avoided is perhaps difficult to show. One thing however is certain; where a people are honest and enlightened, the men they place in power will be so too.

How important then it is, that the people should be well instructed in all branches of learning, which enlighten and moralize them.

41

Major Dades Battle Ground.

In page 1 we have noticed this affair which took place on the 28 of December last. On the 20th February a force of about 1000 men arrived on the ground, where the unfortunate event happened, found the slain collected buried them, and placed the cannon, which was lost in the water, at the head of the Graves. The number found was 98 noncommissioned officers and privates, and 8 officers. Part of the slain were found in a rude triangular work, suddenly constructed, the bodies lying parallel to each other, with their heads towards the logs, over which it is supposed they fixed upon the Indians. The bodies were much decayed, but some of their clothing was left upon them. The account states that the attack was not made from a hammock, but in a thinly wooded country; the Indians being concealed account of this affair has been given; three men only escaped to Tampa Bay, and their account is imperfect.

This affair was nearly similar

Reflections

to that of Capt. Lathrop at Bloody Brook in this town, in Philips War, this Major Dades force was rather larger, and consisted of 2 companies of Artillery; and it is supposed the attack on his vanguard was the first notice he had of the proximity of the Indians. Whether he proceeded with due caution is uncertain, and probably his troops were soon surrounded by the Indians who are supposed to have been from 800 to 1000; but this must be bare conjecture.

Had the force of Dade been well disciplined light infantry or riflemen and on the first attack, extended into two lines of single ranks, some distance apart and retreated in this order as rapidly as possible, the affair might not have been so disastrous. But the force was rather too small to furnish the requisite advance guards and flankers; and perhaps, no rules can be given for securing so small a body when attacked suddenly by such a numerical superiority in the woods.

Major Rogers' System

The great object to be kept in view, in marching through a covered Country, especially where the Indians are of considerable force, is to proceed in such a manner that the enemy may be discovered by the out parties before the main body is attacked. A Regiment of 800 men, if well conducted can do this, on any ground, and if the enemy are much superior in Number, make a retreat, by abandoning its baggage. If suddenly surrounded, by forming into a square, a formidable resistance may be made.

In the war of 1755, the famous partisan Major Robert Rogers, often conducted parties of Rangers through the woods infested with Indians, and was seldom surprised. He practiced a system of movements of his own, which I think was, in general, very judicious and well worth the attention of military officers. It may be found in his Journal published in London 1765, an 800 vol page 60. One of his modes of retreating when attacked by a force
much

Mode of retreating in certain cases
much superior, was to disperse his men in small parties, with orders to rendezvous at some point fixed on by him the preceding day, and made known to each man. By this plan, when the rear was left open by the enemy, his men could retreat as fast as the enemy could advance and by seizing advantageous ground after check their pursuit. The parties in such a case should if possible be under the command of officers or non commissioned officers. So also in case his troops were broken and driven from the ground, they were to retreat in parties and collect at the place assigned the preceding day. Men uninstructed in the art of war may suppose such a retreat to be cowardly; but experienced officers will seldom compel their men to stand and be shot down, where there is no probability of success. Such conduct is more foolhardiness and deserves the severest reprehension.

In the case of Major Dade, we doubt not, his troops displayed great bravery and sold their lines at the dearest rate;

Remarks on the art of War

but being artillery, unaccustomed to light infantry movements, they may have been unavoidably sacrificed, where light troops would have saved them selves, by a judicious retreat. See the sketch of movement of Gen. Ross' army in the march to Washington, page 5 and 6; in which the light corps felt the way in such a manner that they could not have been surprised by an enemy however artful.

The art of war is difficult and requires much study on the part of the commander, and in deed of the officers acting under him. In a closely covered Country it becomes more so, and here light corps of well disciplined troops are of the greatest importance.

I have not much of the character of the officers of our little army; but their services being confined chiefly to garrison duty, it would not be strange if they should be found deficient in the field. They are I believe in general, high spirited and honorable gentlemen; and those who have been educated at West Point can not be ignorant of the general principles
of

Qualifications of

of War; but they may lack experience and sometimes like others, suppose on receiving a commission, that a cockade, feather and epaulette and their Book of Tactics with a little expertness at exercise, will qualify them for command. "The military profession, says an able officer, is not designed for debauches, nor for those who are too fond of pleasure. It requires, in a higher degree than any other, that strength and bodily vigor, which can bear with indifference, or even with cheerfulness, inconveniences and difficulties. A robust constitution indicates strength and energy of mind; though this is a circumstance not sufficiently attended to in military institutions."

Hence those designed for the military profession must accustom themselves early to the inclemency and changes of the seasons; to hunger, thirst, fatigue. unusual toils, and extraordinary privations. The officer of light troops in particular, must bear to be content

Military Officers

without the delicacies of the table; for he will often be exposed to want; must partake of course and scanty meals, & frequently be wholly deprived of food. His lodgings sometimes a cavern in the rocks, or the earth; at other times the spreading branches of a tree, or the woods affording him the only shelter from the cold and howling storms of night. Such are the hardships common to the service of troops in the field, and particularly of light troops, and the young officer must meet them with steady resolution, and without a murmur persevere in the discharge of his duty, until he has hardened his body and mind to every fatigue, trying event.

“By acts like these
Laconia nurs’d of old her hardy sons;
And Rome’s unconquer’d legions urg’d their way,
Unhurt through every toil, in every clime.”⁹

In the Introduction to my Rules & Regulations for the Cavalry, I have treated more largely on the subject of the qualifications of officers.

⁹ From John Armstrong’s *Art of Preserving Health*, Book 3.

42

The Pensacola Gazette

This Gazette, having witnessed the operations of the militia, who have been called to the field, begins to open its eyes on the inefficiency of such troops. It says "War is a profession, and those who are to follow it should be taught its mysterious (principles) by being subjected, not to its dangers merely, but to its toils and privations. To suppose that militia have not as much animal courage and moral firmness as regular troops, would be to suppose that the same elements do not enter into the composition of all men alike. But the age of chivalry is past, and the present (so far as efficiency in war, and particularly offensive war is concerned) is the age of discipline

It seems to be agreed that this war must now be carried on by toilsome marches and constant exposure. The Indians have fled to their coverts and they must be pursued and ferreted out. Their everglades must be won, acre by

1836

Favorable symptoms

acre, and who are they who are to perform the daily marches and nightly vigils, indispensable in such a service? People taken hastily from the peaceful vocations of civil life? The surplus revenue (not of Florida but of the United States) would be exhausted before the Indians could be driven from the Peninsula by such means.”

We are highly gratified to perceive one symptom of returning sanity in a news paper published within the United States, and any for the boastings of the efficiency of our militia we hope will cease. A war with a powerful nation we know would produce this effect; but we hardly thought that hostility with a tribe of Indians would produce so important a change of sentiment. Now let Congress awake and place our militia on a respectable footing for active service on any emergency. The importance of a select corps ready for the field, must now appear to every man of common sense who will reflect on the subject. In

Boasts of the Western People

In the old part of the United States real military men begin to see and acknowledge the futility of our militia system; but the western people boast of their martial spirit. In a late Report of a Committee of Congress for granting pensions to those engaged in the Indian wars after the peace with Great Britain in 1833, they say "It is true that the martial spirit has been maintained in the west in its full vigor. It is true that the war under consideration was the school in which the martial spirit was formed and matured. it is true that the circumstances under which the western country was settled, made it the nursery of soldiers. The martial spirit that had its growth in the western wilderness, brought the first war to a glorious termination, and was the shield of this Union in the last." They add, "The day will come when the seaboard, invigorated by wealth and luxury, will have to invoke the martial spirit behind

The

Totally Groundless

the mountains for protection against foreign invasion”

This martial spirit of the Committee is a misnomer; had they given it the name of the hunting spirit the term would have been appropriate: and that the hunters of the west form the best militia, we are willing to admit; because they are hardy and the best marksmen, the only valuable qualities of undisciplined men. But for protracted war they are of little worth, and when placed in the school of regular discipline they are found to be but refractory scholars. At the commencement of the revolutionary war, our militia men were not unlike those of the west at this time, and no doubt were the best of militia; but if we can rely on the [] declarations of Gen Washington and other officers, they were totally unfit for war.

For a sudden expedition our western brethren may be of some service, so far as their marksmanship & hardihood qualify them: but no reliance can

be

The hunter but a poor soldier

be placed on them for protracted service; they go where they will & fight if they choose, and return to their families when they please; their hunting spirit will at length be lost, when they will be found imbecile, and may have to rely on the disciplined troops of the seaboard for their defense.

The hunter with his rifle and hatchet is formidable against the wild beasts of the forest, and may perform great feats, but when placed in the ranks of a Battalion where he is to act in concert with those around him, according to the mechanical rules of discipline, his prowess is lost; and his independent spirit will not often submit to the discipline essentially necessary to form the real soldier. In short such men cannot be relied on for the defense of a country when attacked by a powerful enemy with a regularly disciplined army; and our boastings of the efficiency of our present militia is a demonstration that we are ignorant of the art of war in its present improved state.

1836

43

Battle with the Florida Indians

From the NY J. Com. we have the following account. Gen Gaines who had joined Gen. Clinch at Fort King on the 24th of February with 1100 men being on his return to Tampa Bay (with it is supposed the same force) arrived on the banks of Withlacoche where he fell in with a powerful body of Indians, represented to be not less than 1500, who gave him battle, determined either to conquer or die. Although he had resolutely maintained his ground, and destroyed considerable numbers of the Indians, yet at the latest dates, his situation was extremely critical, the more so as the contest must probably have been decided, one way or the other, before he could be aided by reinforcements.” The intelligence we consider as doubtful. Should it prove correct and Gaines be beaten, it will be a singular event. His force is supposed to consist of 400 regulars & 700 volunteers; on the latter not much dependence is to be placed. Gen. St. Clair was beaten with a greater force, as well as Braddock

Tour to Boston

44. Business of the Town in the Legislature requiring my attendance. I sat out Sunday about 4 PM and went on board of the stage by N. Salem to Boston and arrived at Millington, the east village of New Salem, the 21st of March, about 9 oclock—Found a good Tavern and clean bed and had a fine nights rest. At 5 oclock AM, after break fast departed for Barre, where I took stage for Worcester and arrived there about 1 oclock the 21st. Have waited until 3 oclock PM; then entered the rail road Carrs and arrived at Boston about 6 oclock PM. The snow from Barre to Worcester not more than a foot in depth & some bare spots of earth in the road. From Worcester to Boston the snow less than that in Worcester County.
- March 21st 1836 Tuesday 22d attended the Legislature and took the usual oaths before the Gov. and Council. Some snow in the afternoon attended by NE wind Found the Legislature full of business and not likely to rise for some time. Saw many old Friends full of congratulation

1836

The Legislature &c.

The Bill for granting a Bank of 10 millions of Dollars was debated by Mr Lawrence and Rantoul. The house adjourned to 3 o'clock PM and the afternoon being stormy I did not attend of the utility of the Bank. I have some doubts, and have hitherto thought we had a sufficient number of Banks in the state. Mr. Lawrence remarked that the Country was in a State of improvement at peace and that we had nothing to fear from War; and then it is, every thing is absorbed in trade and we need no preparations for a different state of things. The maxim "in peace prepare for war is forgotten, and we must wait for another opportunity before we open our eyes to a military defence.

The pavements in Boston are covered with ice, and wheel carriages glide along very pleasantly, and as in a hive of Bees in warm weather, all are upon the buz.

Took Board at Leaches Thursday 24th
at 4 Dollars per Week

April 16 (Saturday) the Legislature closed

Mr. Sparks

its session, but the pay Roll was made to include Sunday the 17th My attendance 27 days; travel 100 m =74 Dollars. The whole session 103 days—modest for the little state of Mass

April 19th paid Russell Shattuck and Co. for 400 Everetts orations in full. Mr. Whitney handed me 10 dollars for part payment of the above.

The whole Amount 40 Dollars

Yesterday saw Mr. Jared Sparks the great American Writer, who informed me that the 11th Vol. of the Washington Letters would finish the work except the first, containing the Life of the General. Few men appear to me more agreeable and inviting on first acquaintance than Mr. Sparks. He was familiar and seemed perfectly acquainted with me on the first moment. Enquired if I knew Dr. Williams and mentioned that he was about to write the Biography of Revd John Williams and enquired of me about Rouville's journal, mentioned in my Researches which he had by him. While in

Mr. Fessenden.

Boston became acquainted with Mr. Fessenden another literary gentleman well known to the public. He has just published a new Edition of his Terrible Tractoration with alterations, and amendments, which he proposed to exchange for my antiquarian researches. He is a grave looking gentleman, and at the first view a stranger would think him possessed of but little of the poetic gift. He informed me that his book was much varied from the first Edition, and that it contained some new matter, and he repeated a few lines sarcastic on Phrenology, in which I think he has but little faith.

Called on Adjutant Genl. Dearborne and had a conversation on the militia in which he seemed to be too much attached to the French notions. He believed then success were much owing to their enthusiasm while I attributed it to their discipline under a great master of war. He indicated that our militia would stand against regulars and did not agree with me that our people were

Genl. Dearborn

become effeminate. In short I think he has not sufficiently studied the art of war in all of its brands. He no doubt possesses the spirit of an officer but a little more attention to the subject, would correct some of his notions. He agreed with me that our officers should be appointed rather than elected by their men, but this is foiled by the constitution which is wrong. I mentioned to him Genl. Armstrongs notes of the war, but he had not seen it. I was soon convinced that he had strong prejudices against Armstrong and spoke of his blindness, in directing the movements of Wilkinson in the Canada expedition. Armstrong's criticisms on his Father's movements will no doubt irritate Genl. Dearborn, and I expect he will condemn the works in toto. Be this as it may, I think the work of Armstrong will be useful for commanders of Armies; though some of his criticisms may be unjust. At

New Militia Bill

Genl. Dearborn's office I saw the Bill reported in Congress for a new militia law, and if it contains any improvements they are few, and not very important. The old system of gratuitous square is required of the men; and so long as this prevails we shall not have an efficient militia; and this I think will continue until we have a war at our doors. The Bill was sent to Genl. Dearborn by Gov. Lincoln, an Gentleman who knows about as much of the art of war as I do of the Greek language; and probably this is the case with a great majority of Congress. At present I look for no radical improvements in our militia system. A war may cure our stupidity and nothing else will.

Banks mercantile officers and the scramble for office will again engross our attention, and we shall soon forget the danger which threatened us in the late misunderstanding with France. Invasion will be forgotten and we shall think ourselves safe from harm.

42

Bunker Hill Monument

The creation of monuments to commemorate great events, seems to be congenial to the feelings of most men of reflecting minds: and those placed on the battle grounds of our Revolution serve as striking memorials to keep alive the toils and dangers of our fathers in the great struggle for independence. For myself it would be pleasure to see them raised on all of our noble Battle fields. But if erected they should be within the bounds of moderate expenditures and constructed of the most durable materials. One on Bunker hill to mark the place of that Battle would gratify the curious traveler But is projectors have run into a great error in attempting too much a "Light house in the sky" of feet is not required: it is considered by the people as extravagant and foolish Then thousand dollars would have been an ample sum, and this would have been easily obtained by subscription. But the taste of

The Battle Ground

our Boston friends would not be limited to so small a sum. The consequence is, they find themselves unable to complete the projected pile without the aid of the State. A scheme is now on foot to induce the Legislature to purchase the lands the company have obtained, in the vicinity of the monument, and thusly enable them to compleat the work; and this purchase it is supposed will amount to 33,000 dollars, which added to the sum already expended will make the moderate sum of about dollars, a cost considered in any point of view extravagant in the extreme.

The Battle of Bunker hill, though the theme of much boasting on the part of the Americans evinces little knowledge of the art of war in the commanders of the provincials troops. Being on a peninsula with a narrow neck, they opined war wholly untenable while the British commanded the waters. and had they seized this neck, they would have captured, not only the

Ill chosen and untenable

American redoubt, but every man employed on it, without a battle.

The occupation of the hill at that time was a violation of military rules; had we been masters of the waters the case would have been otherwise.

No prudent commander will post a detachment of his army, where it may be cut off from a communication with the main body, or its base.

The occupation of Dorchester point subsequently by Genl. Washington was not a similar case; here the rear was open and his force numerically superior to the enemy, and if beaten from his ground might have retreated with safety.

The Battle on Bunker's Hill only shows that undisciplined troops will fight when posted to hand works, where there is more safety in standing, than in running away. The defense of New Orleans at the close of the late war, is another sample of the same kind. Both are, however, often cited to show the prowess of our militia.

46

Florida War

From the accounts up to the 20th of April in our papers, it appears the war with the Seminoles still continues. Genl Gaines after suffering great privations at the Withlacoochee, and several attacks from the Indians, was at length relieved by a force which reached his camp with provisions. The Indians have now full in back and dispersed into the morasses where it is difficult to attack them; and our troops, it is said, begin to be sickly. The war may continue some time, perhaps through the summer. Several of the militia corps have been dismissed and returned to their proper occupations in their respective states, no doubt cooled of their ardor for the field.

About six months have elapsed since the war began, with this nation ~~tribe~~ of Indians, and they still maintain their positions against all the force brought against them by the U States. The French say, and say truly, that we are as yet but mere novices in the art of war. Our rulers do not yet see this. let them learn before it is too late.

The Weather

- 47 April 21st. the weather still continues cold, but the ground at Boston is free from snow. On the Connecticut I am informed the snow still covers the ground to some depth, and the farmers are
- 1836 pressed for want of food for their cattle. Indian corn is said to be eight shillings the bushel, and hay at 30 dollars the ton. I recollect no [] like this. The sun's declination is now 11°58' N. and yet the warm rays are not fact, a haziness of the atmosphere prevents their penetration to the surface of the earth with much effect.

-
- 48 Armstrong's Notice of the War
The 1st Vol of the this work is now before the public, a 12 mo of 263 pages, from the press at New York. His 2^d will be published with "all convenient dispatch." The first Vol. is confined to the early operations on the frontier, the second is to contain those on the Seaboard &c. An appendix, with 6 Chapters make up the 1st Vol. handsomely printed in well sized type. Genl. Armstrong adopts

Armstrongs Notices of the War

the following method. The war is divided into campaigns under various commanders, and the details are first given though without great minuteness. These are followed by Remarks upon the operations in which the errors committed are pointed out and tested by strategic rules as laid down by approved writers: Grimoard's French work is mentioned.

The criticisms in the Notices no doubt will be received, by the officers concerned, with disgust; and perhaps in some instances Gen. Armstrong may have committed errors not less answerable in his remarks. To point out errors in military operations is not so difficult as to avoid them. Yet this after sight may be of great use to commanders, in leading them to a careful study of their professions before they attempt to command in the field. No one, however skillful, who conducts an army, is so gifted by nature or art, as to avoid many errors; but he who is the most studious in his profession, will commit less

Faults of the Commanders

than one of a different character.

In his remarks upon the campaign on the Niagara in 1812 Genl Armstrong says "The errors which signalize the close of this campaign in the north are numerous and striking. Those of Gen. Dearborn and Smyth appear to have been the result of constitutional defects-Bar onness or inactivity of mind in the one, and infirmity of purpose in the other; while those of Van Renssalear were obviously sins of ignorance, the offspring of that deficient knowledge, which every man must feel, who for the first time, and without any previous instruction, finds himself at the head of an army and on the eve of a Battle."

The errors of this campaign are [] vented upon, under light heads; and if they be admitted as errors we think a paramount one may be pointed out. viz the grand error of declaring war on frontiers no better than those assigned by our Government, and which are

hideously magnified in Genl. Armstrongs first Chapter. The truth is the men at the head of our government entertained the futile notion that a small force on undisciplined men, might invade Canada and conquer the province, without much opposition from the inhabitants, who were ready to join us and afford them aid in the Conquest. The result of the war proved the futility of our wild speculations, and taught us that as a ~~military~~ nation we are yet but novices in the art of war, and that an indifferent militia is of little or no use, when employed in the invasion of a country, defended by a small force of regular troops. We shall wait with impatience for the 2d vol. of Gen. Armstrongs Notices of the war, on the Seaboard, entertaining the strongest belief that he will point out many errors that occurred ~~in the war~~ on this border. Had he furnished maps & plans his work would have been more useful.

49

Recipe for a Cough as given by
Joshua Whitney of Quebec, to Robert
Williams of Boston, Nov. 12, 1835.

strained Honey $\frac{1}{2}$ tb

Balsam Fir 1 Wine glass

Olive Oil 1 Do Do

Lime or Lemon Juice, 1 gill:

The compound slowly simmered $\frac{1}{2}$
an hour, and then bottled, to be
taken morning & evening in doses of
a table spoonful for an adult &
less for a child.

My Daughter Adeline being afflicted with
a dry hacking cough about 3 weeks,
took a spoonful of the above at
night and morning (=2 days) and
it effected a cure very soon.

The affect from the medicine was
cathartic & gripping pain in the bowels
which went off on taking a dose of
caster oil. She felt a sort of burn
ing of the skin during the operation
of the medicine. Mr Whitney says
the dose is used in Quebec with
success, and is an excellent medicine
& harmless. Probably it is a good
pulmonic and of use in incipient coughs.

50

New Book

The Philosophy of Living: or the
 way to enjoy life and its Comforts
 By Caleb Ticknor AM MD 1 Vol 12 mo

This work is just from the press of
 the Harpers, making the 77th Vol of the
 excellent Collection, and embraces many
 just rules in relation to diet and living
 Unlike many late works on the same
 subject, it permits the use of the good
 things of this life to be used, treated with
 moderation. Cookery and a good kitch
 en it holds to be indispensable to health,
 and that we should be guided in
 our diet by taste.

The work is in principle accordant
 with that of Dr. Comb, but of a more
 practical nature; and perhaps better
 adapted to the people of the United States
 It is well worth the attention of the
 Philosopher as well as the active man of
 business, and will serve to check the
 errors ~~which~~ arising from the utopian
 plans and visionary theories that
 have pervaded the press, in all parts
 of New England, in regard to ino
 vations in established modes of living

51

Extract of a Letter dated MonticelloFlorida, April 9th 1836.

The Indian news within the last two days has astonished us. I am readily afraid they have treated Gen. Scott as they has before treated Gen Gaines. They whipped Gaines, and there is good reason to believe they have cut off all communication between Scott and the other forces. I saw yesterday a Gentleman immediately from East Florida, who assured me this was the fact. I think the information may be relied on. Osceola has taught the white man before this time, that he is a Gen. and a savage not to be treated with contempt. He now says that he was not at the first battle of the Withlacoochee, fought on the 31st of December, and that if he had been there not one white man should have crossed the River. He acknowledges that he is now nearly out of communication but in the last week he has cut off Gen. Scott's baggage wagons on their way from fort Drane to Withlacoochee, and it is very much

Remarks on the War

to be apprehended that he has gained enough ammunition to supply him for some time.”

The opinion now seems to be, that the Seminole War will not soon terminate. In the house of Representatives M White a member of Congress from Florida, said that Gen Scott would be compelled to disband nearly his whole force and the Country would be left to the mercy of the savages for the whole summer. Had a significant force been ready on the commencement of the war, it might have been terminated in the course of the cool season, the only time for a campaign in Florida. Such a force might be found in a select militia disciplined as they might be in time of peace, and held ready for service on the shortest notice. But we chuse to repose without preparation for war and while this disposition continues, we must submit to the fatal consequences. From late debates in Congress it appears that a general Indian

war

Apprehensions of a General War

war on our Southeastern frontier is apprehended, and a Bill is before the House authorizing the President to increase the military force of the US for the defence of the frontiers. Mr Harrison stated that the Indians in the western frontiers agreeable to a report of the War department, amounted to upwards of 150,000 souls and that it was generally believed they could bring from 30 to 40 thousand Warriors into the field. Mr. Harrison said, "It is well known that regular troops were of very little service to chastise those Indians if a war were should break out." What does this gentleman mean by regular troops? Are men chosen from the tender scenes of domestic life, totally unacquainted with the art of war, more formidable than instructed troops?—preposterous!

Mr. Granger seemed to entertain views of military discipline not less absurd. "When said he, the blood stained flag should even be brought

Errors of our political men.

so near our territory that it folds
 could be seen, the valley of the Missis-
 sippi and Ohio and the whole
 western Country would be powered
 upon that frontier, and that when
 the hunters of Kentucky and the
 Tennessee riflemen were in the field,
 the enemy had better look out.”
 Mr. Granger may be a good civil-
 ian but his military qualifications
 are presented in no enviable point
 of view, by such childish boasting.
 What profound [] of the art
 of war is evinced by many of our
 best men in Congress, as well as among
 others employed in civil life! This
 sickly diatheses must be removed
 before we can be prepared for
 a manly defence of our Country.
 when assailed by a powerful
 force. Truly we are, as the French
 say, mere novices in the art of War.

52

The Franklin Mercury states that the
 north part of Deerfield Meadow is under
 water, and that the snow is not nearly
 off from the hills (April 26)

The Weather

52 Thursday April 28th the weather
 at Boston still continues cool and
 remarkably dry, and the atmosphere
 breezy. Vegetation however begins to show it
 self upon the trees; the buds on the
 1836 elm slow themselves, and this day
 we had at dinner a mess of Greens
 (dandelions) A residence in this City
 at this season is by no means pleasant
 we see very few of the beauties of the
 Country. From day to day the same
 rattling of carriages and trucks []
 our ears with their eternal rumble,
 and the same hurried line of peo
 ple are seen on the side walks,
 all in double quick time in chase
 of their several objects. I sometimes
 trip to Washington street and visit the
 Bookstores to find rare works; but
 am seldom gratified in finding them.
Light reading is abundant, also
 periodicals; but the latter are often
 high and not always interesting.
 English Editions are very expensive
 and much beyond a Countrymans purse
 Harpers family Library are the lowest
 priced of any—45 cents per Vol.

53

Lowel Rail Road Company

My quarters are in the vicinity of the Depot of the Lowel Rail road, where “busy trade her labor plys” and carriages are of ten seen loaded with passengers for the cars. The Company are extending the ground on the northerly part of the City by bringing in earth, to extend the adjacent streets and two large blocks of Brick stores are nearly finished on the new ground. By these improvements this part of the City may become a place of considerable mercantile business. Probably Rail Roads will be extended from Lowel in a Northerly and westerly direction, so as to command the trade of the country in those directions, and when this takes place the Depot in Boston must be a busy Mart. The company appear to be very enterprising and to carry on all their works must be able to command large sums of money at all times.

54

Terrible Tractoration and other poems, by Christopher Caustic M.D. &c
A third American Edition of this

Terrible Tractoration

work has just appeared from the press of Russell Shattitck & Co. Boston, comprised in a 12 mo vol of 264 pages. The Author of the work is the well known Thomas Green Fessenden, to whom the people are so much indebted for many useful works. In this edition several new subjects are introduced, among which are Phrenology, Abolition, Amalgamation, Temperance, Reformation &c. And we think he has well sustained his former character for sarcasm and learned notes, on some of our hypothetical Philosophies.

The following touch upon phrenology is admirable.

“We have for sale the seeds of bumps
Which dibbled in the heads of Gumps
Take root without the aid of thunks
And grow as large as camel’s humps”

“Protuberant distinctiveness
Paced in our phrenologic press
Is render’d by its powers immense
Exuberant benevolence”

Terrible Tractoration.

"We take a thing we call Nousameter,
 Or Phrenological Micrometer:
 The grand quintessence of inventions
 For measuring the mind's dimensions.

"Nousameters, our hope and trust is,
 Will supersede our courts of Justice,
 By proving guilt in all gradations,
 In style of Euclid's demonstrations"

The author proposed an exchange
 of his work, for one of my Antiquarian
Researches, which I readily accepted.
 See page 129 (of sketch book) for a notice
 of this ingenious and valuable man.

55

Texas

From the latest accounts it appears
 probable that the Texans will be
 conquered or driven from their coun
 try by the forces under Santa Anna
 amounting to about 5000 experien
 ced troops. This opposing force under
 Gen. Houston amounts to about 1500
 or 2000 untaught men. Volunteers
 from some of the western States are said
 to be joining the Texans a measure which
 cannot

Considerations

cannot be tolerated by our Government, without a gross departure from neutrality.

Whether the Texans can be justified in their opposition to the Mexican Government I am not certain.

Most of the settlers immigrated from the U States and voluntarily placed themselves under that Government. and of course are bound to support it, so long as it shall be administered constitutionally. If the Texans are determined to establish a separate government in consequence of inroads on the constitution of Mexico, by the leader Santa Anna, they have some plea for their resistance. But before they attempted this, prudence should have taught them to look to the means they possessed to effect their object. The wild American notions that a few "sons of liberty", without instructed troops, or resources for war, can cope with disciplined armies led on by experienced officers, must ruin any country. The prowess of the

The Mexican troops.

Mexican Army has been underrated by the Texans It is said by those acquainted with the Mexican troops, that they have been accustomed to warlike employments almost from their childhood. that they are accustomed to Arms & are mountaineers, who are brought up as brigands and capable of any degree of hardship and privations that humanity can bear; and that they are as effective as any that could be brought to operate in that Country. If these be facts the Texans must submit to conquest or abandon their country. Any aid from the government of the U States is not to be expected, unless we are determined to plunge into a war with Mexico, in which case, we might learn that she is not destitute of the means for a formidable resistance, or even an offensive war. Let us then retain our neutrality and be actuated by the principles of justice and do as we would be done by-A rule from which we ought not, in any case, to depart.

56

Interesting Book

Memoirs of the Duchess D'Abram
 tes (Madam Junot) 1 Vol. 8 vo
 445 pages (Harper press 1832)
 This is a singular and curious work full
 of anecdote and incident. The Duchess
 was intimate with the Bonaparte
 family, and her husband a favorite
 General of the Emperor. In a very
 pleasing manner she gives sketches
 of most of the incident of the French
 Revolution and presents Napole
 on in a point of view rare and
 more attracting than we have generally
 viewed him. We here see him in
 the familiar circle of ladies and
 among his Generals, at their parties
 and social meetings. The work
 is interesting to all who are curi
 ous about the character of the Em
 peror of France, and the Generals
 under him. The Book contains
 67 Chapters, and a portrait of
 General Junot, well executed
 from the Lithographic Press of En
 dicott & Scott of New York.

57

Accident from a Rail Road Engine

A dwelling house Barn and Cornhouse took fire by the sparks from the Engine, passing on the Boston and Worcester Rail road, on Wednesday last, and were all consumed. The woods also took fire in one or more places, from the same cause. Engines in common use have something attached to the funnel to prevent the sparks from escaping, but was not the case on Wednesday. The wind was very high during the day.

In dry weather accidents of this kind may be frequent, unless the sparks from the engine are secured, particularly in high winds. In passing woods there is danger from the engine, and none should be used without a wire netting over the chimney, which, it is said, will prevent such accidents.

But with this precaution, where a Rail road passes through a strut of wooden buildings in dry windy weather the may be fired, and combustibles should not be suffered to remain near the Road, such as stacks of Hay, grain &c. Our Engineers should look to this circumstance.

Return to Deerfield

58 Monday May 2d At 6 oclock A.M.
 took seat in the Cars and arrived at
 Worcester about 9 oclock. At that place
 I expected to find a stage for Templeton
 or Barre to [] the Greenfield stages:
 1836 but was disappointed—none were to move
 in either of these directions until Tuesday.
 Finding a stage was to start for
 Amherst took a seat and arrived
 at Gilberts tavern at that place, abut
 8 oclock PM. Tuesday morn, hired a passenger
 to Bloody Brook, and there another to
 my house, where I arrived about the mid
 dle of the forenoon. The day was warm
 and the roads generally dry. At Ware
 Factory we met a thunder shower
 from the west, and considerable rain.
 Between Belchertown and Amherst
 we had 2d shower with thunder.
 This is the first warm day I have
 felt this spring. Vegetation is very back
 ward, and the western hills present
 ed patches of snow in abundance.
 Tuesday 3d The weather continued hot
 through the day and rather uncomf
 ortable. Wednesday 4. Weather again cool.

Expenses on the Route

The expenses on this route are greater than on the northern one. The following are the items

Carriage to the Depot at Boston	.50
Fare on rail road to Worcester	1.50
Do to Amherst	2.50
Hire of Carriage Amherst to Bloody B	1.75
Thence Home (in [] wagon)	.25
Dinner at Brookfield at } a common table only }	.50
At Gen Gilberts 1 Lodge & 2 meals	<u>.75</u>
Refreshment and } Total	\$7.75
and Porter Bay at Worcester }	<u>.18 ½</u>
	\$7.93 ½

Note

At no time when travelling in New England have I paid so high a price for a traveler's dinner, as at Brookfield.

In consequence of the concentration of the stages, on the Springfield and Northampton routes, at Worcester at the head of the Rail Road, much travel passes through Brookfield, and as the business increases the expenses of traveling will increase. Our taverns then will seize on this and increase their charges until they find travel leaving them for more economical routes.

Books

59	<u>Books purchased at Boston for</u>	
	<u>the Library Company in Deerfield</u>	
1	Voyage of the Potomac round the World	
	1831 to 1834 by Reynolds 1 Vol	3.25
2	Maine Historical Collections 1 st Vol	1.25
3	Washington Letters by Spark 9 th & 10 th	5—
4	Sturns Reflections 1 Vol	1.50
5	Tucker's Light of Nature 4 Vols	6
6	Irvings Crayon Miscellany 3 Vols	2.62
7	Comb on the Constitution of man, 1 vol	.83
8	Dick on mental Illumination 1 Vol	.62
9	Norman Leslie (a novel) 2 Vols	1.37
10	Sedgwick on Public & Private Economy 1 vol	.75
11	Irvings Indian Sketches 2 Vols	1.38
12	Spark's Biography 4 th Vol	1.00
13	Random Recollection of House of Comm. 1 Vol	.50
14	Pompeii (Destruction of & Excavations) 1 Vol	.50
15	Harpers Family Library up to 77 No. 6 Vols	2.70
16	Marryath Tales of the Sea 1 Vol	.50
17	Mass Historical Collections 7 Vols.	7.00
18	Rush's Memoranda or Residence in Engd. 1 Vol	1.75
19	Haliburtons Nova Scotia 2 Vols	3.50
20	Book of Shipwrecks at Sea 1 Vol	.07 ½
21	Storey's [] on the Contr. 1 Vol.	2—
22	Upham's Manual of Peace 1 Vol	<u>1.25</u>
	total	46.14 ½

Books

	Brought up	46.14 ½
23	Spark's Life of Governor Morris 3 Vol	3.00
24	Duches of D'Abrantes 1 Vol	1.50
25	Jay on Slavery 1 Vol	.37 ½
26	Charming on Do 1 Vol	<u>.50</u>
	Total cost	<u>51.52</u>
	For myself	
1	Epitome of Military Events, 1 Vol	1.00
2	Armstrongs Notices of the War, 1 st vol	.80
3	American Almanack 1 vol	.75
4	Terrible Tractoration (an exchange)	<u>1</u>
		\$3.55

The Epitome of the Military Events was purchased from the Library of the late Col. Duane of Philadelphia, by Mr. Drake of Boston, and by him sold to me.

In selecting the Books for the Library company, much pains were taken to procure those which would be useful, as well as amusing, and possibly they may not exactly suit the taste of such as have vitiating their intellects with the light trash which is daily becoming fashionable in our Country.

60. Baron Steuben's plan of militia.
 In a letter from Genl Washington to the Baron, dated Mount Vernon 15 March 1784, he says "I have perused with attention the plan, which you have formed for establishing a Continental Legion and for training a certain part of the Arms bearing men of the Union, as a militia in times of peace; and with the small alterations which have been suggested and made, I very much approve of it. It was no unpleasing and flattering a circumstance to me, to find such a coincidence of ideas as appear to run through your plan, and the one I had the honor to lay before a Committee of Congress in May last. Mine, however, was a hasty production, the consequence of a sudden call and little time for arrangement; yours of maturer thought and better digestion. At the same time that I limited the propriety of a Continental militia, I glided almost insensibly into what I thought would rather than what I conceived ought to be a proper peace establishment for the Country. A

Approved by Washington

A peace establishment ought always to have two objects in view; the one, present security of posts and of stores, and the public tranquility; the other to be prepared, if the latter is impracticable, to resist with efficacy, the sudden attempts of a foreign or domestic enemy.

If we have no occasion for troops for the first purposes, and were certain of not wanting any for the second, then all expenses, of every nature and kind whatsoever on this score, would be equally nugatory and unjustifiable; but while men have a disposition to wrangle, and to disturb the peace of society, either from ambitions, political, or interested motives, common precedence and foresight require such an establishment, as is likely to insure to us the blessings of peace, although the undertaking should be attended with difficulty and expense; and I can think of no plan more likely to answer the purpose than the one you have suggested; which, the principles being established, may be enlarged or diminished

Outlines of the Plan

ished at pleasure, according to circumstances. It therefore meets my approbation, and has my best wishes for its success.” Spark’s Washington Letters Vol. 9, page 25.

The plan of the Baron was published in the papers of the day, and it evinced much knowledge of the art of war, and of the circumstances of the Country. Besides a Continental Legion, he proposed a select militia to be so trained as to fit it for the field on any emergency. After the peace Congress thought little about a national defence, and the military art was suffered to die with the old officers.

61. A new work by Thomas Dick LLD is just from the press, entitled, “Mental Illumination and improvement of Mankind” 1 Vol. 12 mo 425 pages with explanatory cuts.

The design of the work is to introduce an improved system of Education, and like others, by this author, it is ingenious and highly interesting as well as instructing. It is hoped it may do much good. The

Brooks Geography of the Heavens

“The Scenery of the Heavens” (noted in page 17) the author says, will be out as soon as his present engagements will permit. He dates his preface, Broughty Ferry, near Dundee, Nov. 1835. Mental Illumination is his 5th work—all I believe in our Social Library, and have been reprinted in America.

Dr. Dick has a notice of Elijah H Burrits work on “The Geography of the Heavens” which has been published recently in Hartford, Con. The work comprises 342 closely printed pages, large 18 mo, and several wood cuts and is accompanied by a large and beautiful Atlas 16 inches by 14, containing 7 Planispheres or maps of the heavens. He thinks the work is very useful and recommends it for seminaries. I found it at Boston for 150 cents the vol. and should have purchased it, had I known its excellence. It contains an introduction written by the Dr. See page 88 for a notice of the work which it appears is American, and ought to be more known here.

The weather

62 Since our last notice of the weather,
the 28th of April, at Boston, it has generally
1836 continued cool, with the exception of the
two days (May 2 & 3) when we returned
to Deerfield. At this time, May 13, we
have a cold air and vegetation is
backward. A few blossoms begin to
appear on the Plum and Pear trees;
but none are observed on the apple trees.
Probably the snow still remains on
Hoosac Mountain, for the winds from
the western quarter are cold. A remark
able hazyness of the atmosphere has been observed
during the spring which prevents the
penetration of the sun's rays to the Earth,
and the surface remains rather dry,
though the water in our wells has risen
to the usual height away to the dissolving
of the snow, which there was little frost
in the ground. The 2d & 3 of May were
the warmest days we have felt this
season, and the 2d was attended with
thunder showers. Whether we shall
have a warm summer, is to be seen.
Our maples have generally put out their leaves.

The Florida War.

63 The forces under Gen. Scott, we
learn, are returning from the frontier
of the Peninsula to more healthy stations
further north; and the campaign is
to be suspended during the summer. The
1836 militia of course will be sent home
and suffered to resume their proper
avocations. The last accounts are
about the middle of April.
When the war commenced we were
aware that little could be done
towards a conquest of the Indians
with such a parity of force, a con-
siderable portion which was made
up of undisciplined troops. The
only chance for success was by
pushing a competent body ~~foree~~ into
the Indian Country during the
winter months. But such a force
was not to be had at that time.
Militia draughts were resorted to,
and these troops were about as
well fitted for a campaign, as they
were to man a Navy and act
against an enemy on the Ocean.
May of our fine & bright people,

Censure of the Commander

who know nothing of war, and who believe that native bravery is all that is wanting to fit men for the field are disposed to blame the commanding General, for the little success obtained over the many, and without advert ing to the true cause, say the war has been miserably conducted.

We are far from this opinion, So far as relates to Gen. Scott we think all has been done that could have been done, circumstanced as he was. The fault was in the Government, in not having a proper force in the outset. A select militia trained a sufficient time at home, in time of peace, would have given a different aspect to the campaign, had it been vigorously pursued during the winter months.

The unauthorized expedition under Gen. Gaines was of a singular character. This blustering commander, after having landed with a force of about 1000 at Tampa Bay, formed a junction with Gen Clinch at the northward, and on

Empty Boastings of Gen. Gaines

his return towards the Bay, met the Indians at the Withlacooche who surrounded him, and within a short time, would have starved him out, had he not been relieved by Clinch with provisions. This advance into the country occupied by the Indians without a supply of provisions, evinces an improvidence which no able commander would have suffered & yet this confident ~~boasting~~ Gen. claimed the honor of having conquered the enemy. and of ending the war; and in a Letter to several Gentlemen of Mobile, on his return, censured Gen. Scott for his tardy movements and want of skill in his profession. Gen. Gaines may be a brave man; but he ought to have learned before this time, that this is but one qualification of a commander. A dash into a wild Country [] by Indians without a supply of provisions, or any means to obtain them, is unpardonable in a commander; and because Gen Scott was more provident in this respect, he is deemed a tardy commander.

Reflections

The truth is, Scotts movements exhibit a much higher degree of military skill, than those of Gaines. We are not prepared to say that the Latter is ignorant of the art of war; but we do say, that in selecting a commander to conduct a large force against a disciplined army in an open Country, we should select Scott rather than Gaines. For a woods man with a small force, perhaps Gains might perform able services; but his improvidence in the expedition to the Withlacoche, evinces a rashness totally inconsistent with the strategic rules of an able commanders. Gains is now on the frontier of Texas with a small force, to guard our territory against any encroachment of the Mexicans, or the Comanche Indians; where he may find whether he possesses skill superior to that of Scott; and should he still disregard the rules for conducting an army, as laid down by able and experienced commanders, he may, too late, find that untaught bravery & blind confidence

Critical Situation of our Generals

generally and in defeat and disgrace.

The command of an undisciplined army is a dangerous undertaking, and no prudent officer will voluntarily risk his reputation on such service. But if ordered by the proper authority, he cannot honorably decline the task; yet when he enters upon the arduous duty it will be with reluctance, knowing as he must, that however faithfully he may perform it, he can add nothing to his reputation in the eye of the unthinking public, unless he is successful in all his operations. The duty imposed upon him will be immense, extending from the commander down to the Corporal, in all of its ramifications, and if opposed by a skillful enemy, he may expect nothing but defeat. So long then as our government relies on an undisciplined militia for offence or defence, the situation of our Generals must be far from enviable. A Frederick, a Bonaparte or a Washington

Eclipse of the Sun.

1836 could never have established a military reputation under such circumstances.
Be it then our endeavor to remove the false notions which now prevail in relation to our national defence; and in “peace prepare for war”—the only means of preserving the former.

64. Eclipse of the Sun, May 15th

1836 By the calculation in the American Almanac, the eclipse at Boston, Lat $42^{\circ}.21'.15''$ Long $71^{\circ}.4'.9''$ W of Greenwich, was to be as follows

	h	m	s	
Beginning of	7-25	32,2		morning
Greatest observation	8.38	15,3		} mean time
End of	9.59	44,6		
Duration of	2.34	11,4		

Digits eclipsed $8^{\circ} 6 \frac{1}{2}$ on Sun's south limb.

By my clock which was nearly true to Solar time, the eclipse began at Deerfield about 20 minutes past 7 o'clock. The almanac made it 7^h-19^m at Springfield, mean time. It is highly pleasing to see with what precision eclipses are now calculated, the result of great accuracy in the Tables of sun and moon's motion. Perhaps no

Remarks on our Science

No Science has been brought to greater perfection than that of Astronomy; but we are mostly indebted to Europeans for this perfection. The United States rests under the disgrace of neglecting to establish an astronomical observatory; and we are indebted to England for our Nautical Almanacs, without which, no ship bound to Europe, or around Cape horn or Goodhope, would undertake the voyage. Yet we boast of being the most enlightened people on earth!! So long as we are engrossed on banks and banking, and on commercial affairs, the higher sciences will remain secondary objects; and we have much to learn before we can claim the [] of an enlightened nation. With an overflowing Treasury Congress seem to have no disposition to aid the progress of the great sciences without which no nation can rise to high eminence. Let us awake from our lethargy.

65

May 18th- This day a Southern breeze brings a softened Air, favorable to vegetation, and nature seems to revive from its long sleep of frost; but the surface of the earth remains dry-~~no~~ apple blossoms begin or appear ~~(on the apple trees)~~ and the season is late.

1836

Within a few days a traveler who had passed over Hoosac Mountain, states that he saw snow several feet in depth. A gentleman of this Town Just returned from a journey to Richmond in Virginia says, he saw there wheat which had head ed, and the trees were clothed with the full sized leaf. The Lat. of Richmond, according to the American Almanac, is 37°-32'-17" N. about 5 degrees south of Deerfield. Had he proceeded to the South point of Florida he would have found vegetation much more advanced. Almost at its full expansion, and some fruits nearly ripened, by this time. What a variety of climate is found within the United States—from that of the frigid to the torrid zone- for we have ~~that of the latter in~~ almost both in N. England.

At Shattuk & Russells Co saw a
work on Geometry, perspective of all
sorts, filled with plates and cuts
an 8 vo price 1.75 cents, printed on London
Perhaps a vol. bound from the Library of
useful knowledge, The [] name
were included-A fine work.

Mme. Rupell Shattuk & Co. have on Book the
following charge against me

1 Peter Simple 3 vols.	1.75
1 Guide to Texas	<u>1.75</u>
	2.50

When I say are included in their
Bill of Books last March 28, 1835
and receipted by them. The Books were
probably charged on Book and not
included when put into the Bill
Look at the Bill.

Expenses at Boston during my attendance on the Legislature 1836 with purchases	
Board at Leakes 4 weeks	\$16.00
Passage to Boston with subsistence	5.00
Contingencies (various)	1.00
Books 1. Armstrong's notices of the war (self)	.80
(self) 2. Military Events (2d hand) in box	1.00
3. Jay on Slavery	.37 ½
4. Carming on Do	.50
5 Family Library (N. 77) 2 Vols.	.90
6 Memoir of Dchess of D'Abrantes	1.50
(self) 7 American Almanac	.75
Magnum [] pens & quills	.94
Boston semi-weekly paper	4.00
Case of Instruments for D. Hoyt	3.00
Washing of Cloths	
8 Fessendens Tractation (an exchange)	0.00
Paper Shears 5/	.83
Contingencies (paper quills & Porters)	.40
Life of Morris 3 Vols. (by Sparks)	3.00

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The same work in Octavo size at same price,		The Westminster Review, Quarterly, do. - - 3 00
Vol. I. to commence the first Jan. 1836.		The Foreign Quarterly Review, - do. - - 3 00
Waldie's Port Folio,		The four Quarterlies last named, together - - 8 00
To single Subscribers a year - - - 3 00		The Musical Library, Edited by Lowell Mason
To Subscribers to the Library - - - 2 50		and G. J. Webb, of the Boston Academy of
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